

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT T. BLACK

FILE NO. 65-59181

SECTION NO. 11

SERIALS 307

THRU
367

NOTICE

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File No: 65-59181Re: Thomas BlackDate: 1/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
307	5-9-51	PH LETTER HQ	4	4	
307X	5-31-51	BELMONT MEMO LADD	1	1	
308	5-10-51	HQ LETTER PH	1	1	
NR	5-3-51	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
309	6-7-51	PH REPORT HQ	4	4	
NR	6-8-51	CAPTIONED: SARAH WEINSTOCK HQ LETTER PH	1	1	
310	6-25-51	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
NR	7-30-51	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
NR	7-27-51	HQ LETTER PH	1	1	
311	7-23-51	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
311	8-15-51	HQ LETTER PH	1	1	
312	8-10-51	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	

File No: 65-59181Re: Thomas BlackDate: 1/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
313	8-10-51	PH REPORT HQ	14	14	
314	9-10-51	HQ LETTER AAG	1	1	
NR	10-31-51	WFO REPORT HQ	2	2	
NR	^{8 291} 8-20-51 / 9-19-78	HENNRICH J. Rosenberg MEMO BELMONT	1	—	see bu 65-58236-NR (between 1127 + 1128) also buried 65-57449-803
315	9-17-51	HQ LETTER PH	1	1	
316	10-19-51	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
317	10-19-51	PH REPORT HQ	4	4	
NR	10-30-51	HQ LETTER AL J. Rosenberg	2	—	see bu 65-58236
318	11-2-51	HENNRICH MEMO BELMONT	1	1	
319	11-3-51	AAG LETTER HQ	1	—	referred to another gov't agency
320	11-3-51	BELMONT MEMO LADD	1	1	
320	11-3-51	HQ LETTER PH	1	1	

File No:

65-59181

Re:

Thomas Black

Date:

1/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
321	1-11-52	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
322	1-17-52	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
323	1-14-52	HQ LETTER PH	1	1	
324	1-17-52	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
325	1-30-52	PH REPORT HQ	7	7	
326	—	MISSING SINCE 11-21-60 See bottom Ser 327	0		
327	3-12-52	HQ LETTER TO PH	1	1	
328	3-27-52	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
329	4-30-52	PG LETTER HQ	1	1	
330	5-17-52	HQ LETTER PH	1	1	
331	5-28-52	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
332	5-27-52	PG LETTER HQ	1	1	
333	5-21-52	HQ LETTER AAG	1	1	

File No: 65-59181Re: Thomas BlackDate: 1/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
334	6-23-52	AAG LETTER HQ	1	-	referred to another gov't agency
335	7-24-52	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
336	7-31-52	PH LETTER HQ	2	2	
336X	7-31-52	PH LETTER	1	1	
337	8-20-52	GRANIGAN MEMO BELMONT	2	2	
338	9-2-52	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
339	10-13-52	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
339	10-29-52	HQ LETTER PH	1	1	
340	11-4-52	PG LETTER HQ	3	3	
341	11-26-52	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
341	12-10-52	HQ LETTER PH	1	1	
342	12-4-52	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	

File No: 65-59181Re: Thomas BlackDate: 11/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
343	1-16-53	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
344	1-19-53	AAA LETTER HQ	1	-	referred to another gov't agency
344	1-26-53	HQ LETTER PH	1	1	referred to another gov't agency
344	1-30-53	HQ LETTER AAG	1	1	
345	1-30-53	HQ LETTER PH	1	-	referred to another gov't agency
NR	3-4-53	ROSEN MEMO TO SA'S	1	1	
346	4-7-53	HQ LETTER AAG	1	1	
NR	4-17-53	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
347	4-21-53	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
348	4-10-53	AAG LETTER HQ	1	-	referred to another gov't agency
348	4-10-53	Encl. AAG LETTER HQ	2	-	referred to another gov't agency
348	4-27-53	HQ LETTER PH	1	1	

File No: 65-59181Re: Thomas BlackDate: 11/78

(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
349	4-27-53	HQ LETTER AAG	3	—	referred to another Gov't agency
350	5-14-53	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
350	5-28-53	HQ LETTER PH	3	3	
351	5-20-53	AAG LETTER HQ	1	—	referred to another Gov't agency
NR	10-22-53	SE LETTER HQ	1	1	
352	6-8-53	PH REPORT HQ	3	3	
353	6-18-53	NK TELETYPE HQ, PH and SE	2	2	
354	6-29-53	NK LETTER HQ	4	4	
355	7-16-53	SE LETTER HQ	3	3	
356	8-6-53	SE LETTER HQ	1	—	referred to another Gov't agency
357	9-28-53	MR. BRANIGAN INTERNAL MEMO MR. BELMONT	2	2	
NR	11-5-53	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	

File No:

65-59181

Re:

Thomas Black

Date:

11/78
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
358	5-11-54	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
359	5-21-54	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
360	6-18-54	HQ LETTER AAG	1	—	referred to another gov't agency
361	6-7-54	PH LETTER HQ	4	4	
361	6-17-54	HQ LETTER PH	1	1	
362	7-9-54	W/ ROUTING SLIP AAG LETTER HQ	2	—	referred to another gov't agency
363	11-4-54	MR HENNRICH INTERNAL MEMO MR BELMONT	2	2	
364	11-16-54	PH LETTER HQ	1	1	
365	11-4-54	PH TELETYPE HQ	2	2	
365	11-10-54	HQ LETTER AAG	3	—	referred to another gov't agency
NR	10-28-54	PH TELETYPE HQ	1	1	
366	11-8-54	MR CLEVELAND INTERNAL MEMO MR BELMONT	2	—	referred to another gov't agency

Thong's Deck

1/78
(month/year)

FBI/DOJ

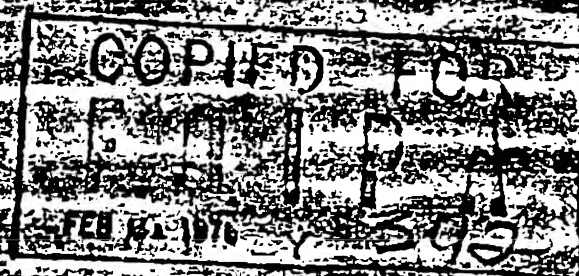
U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION



USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call 421

65
59181

SECTION 11
SERIALS 3507-367

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
(Bufile 65-59181)

DATE: 5/9/51

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Rebulet, 12/16/50. (u)

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Alden	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Mohr	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

121-13
184-3B1
b7D

EXPEDITE PROCESSING

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65-4332

RECORDED - 10

SE 24

Classified by 4913
Exempt from GDS, Category 1

Date of Declassification Indefinite

5/23/82

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAY 22 1951

B1

Director

67D

5/9/51

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B1

Director

b7D

5/19/51

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B1
B7D

Director

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5/9/51

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. D. M. LADD

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: May 31, 1951

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

PURPOSE

To bring to your attention the attached summary brief concerning the subject.

BACKGROUND

You will recall that Harry Gold was introduced into Soviet espionage activity by Thomas L. Black in 1935. Black has admitted engaging in Soviet espionage activity from about 1934 to 1947 under various Soviet espionage superiors.

ACTION

None. The attached brief is for your information.

65-59181

Attachment

EL:mpm;vjm

RECORDED - 55
INDEXED - 55

65-59181-307X

16 AUG 1 1951

66 AUG 7 1956

SAC, Philadelphia

May 10, 1951

Director, FBI

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.

ESPIONAGE - R

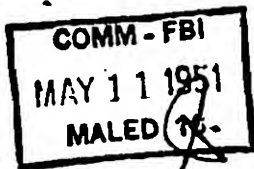
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

Rerep of SA Robert G. Jensen, 4-26-51, at Philadelphia.

Certain information pertaining to Unknown Subject, wa, Nichols, and Unknown Subject, was, Paul Smith, Paul Petersen, is set out in refrep. Philadelphia should also report this information in the respective case files of the Unknown Subject cases.

65-59181

EL:mpm



RECORDED - 119

EX-58

MAY 16 1951

87

65-59181-308

~~65-59181-31~~

RECEIVED
FBI
MAY 10 6 05 PM '51

61 MAY 21 1951

Director, FBI

5/3/51

SAC, Philadelphia

WILLIAM MARIAS MALISOFF, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

3 1554

Re New York report of SA WALTER C. ROETTING, JR., 4/13/51.

On 4/19/51 THOMAS L. BLACK advised that he had never met MALISOFF. BLACK said that he knew of MALISOFF as a chemist but had no knowledge of his being involved in espionage.

Referenced report requested DAVID BUSLIK, U. S. Naval Aviation Research Station, Johnsville, Pa., be interviewed for information concerning MALISOFF.

BUSLIK is no longer employed at Naval Research Station, Johnsville, Pa. He is in residence at 830 Federal Drive, Sharon, Pa.

It is requested that the New York Office furnish Pittsburgh with a copy of referenced report as well as a copy of New York report of SA ROETTING, JR., 12/28/50, in instant case for background information.

Pittsburgh will upon receipt of material from New York conduct the interview of BUSLIK.

Inasmuch as no additional investigation is required at Philadelphia, this matter is considered RUC.

ROJ/tgn
65-4381

CC: New York (65-15377)
Pittsburgh

65-59181-✓
NOT RECORDED
MAY 11 1951
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

MAY 14 1951

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **PHILADELPHIA** FILE NO. **65-4332** JMS

REPORT MADE AT PHILADELPHIA	DATE WHEN MADE 6/7/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/19; 5/17/51	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT G. JENSEN
TITLE THOMAS L. BLACK, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

THOMAS L. BLACK on April 19, 1951, and May 17, 1951, shown photographs of various people to determine if he knew them while he was involved in Soviet espionage. BLACK was unable to identify any of the photographs shown him. He stated that he had never applied for any Federal position at the request of the Soviets.

- P -

DETAILS:

AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.

On April 19, 1951, THOMAS L. BLACK was shown photographs of AMADEO SABATINI and HARRY D. FLELOCK. BLACK advised that he had never seen nor had he ever met these individuals while he was involved in Soviet espionage.

BLACK on May 17, 1951, was shown photographs of:

ELTON R. ALLISON
PETER IVANOVICH BARANOV
JACOB MONESS MONESS
SAMUEL BRONSTEIN
CONWAY DAVIES
VLADIMIR KAZAKEVICH
NORMAN CHANDLER BURSLEER
ERNEST NUCHIM WRIGHT
ELISA BEDACHT

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau (65-59181) 1 New York (65-15338) (Info.) 3 Philadelphia	65-59181-309 JUN 9 1951 10	RECORDED - 55 INDEXED - 55
COPY IN FILE		

He advised that on no occasion had he ever seen or met any of these people. However, BLACK stated that he did recognize the name BEDACHT. During the mid-thirties there was a MAX BEDACHT, who was considered an authority on Communism by people in the Party, according to BLACK. This person BLACK only knew by reputation for he had never met him.

During the interview of May 17, 1951, BLACK was requested concerning his having applied for any governmental positions. He stated that at no time during the period he was passively cooperating with the Soviets did he apply for a Federal position. He qualified this somewhat by saying he might have submitted various applications for Federal positions in the early years of the last depression. However, he was quite adamant in saying he never applied for a governmental job at the request of the Soviets.

- P E N D I N G -

PH 65-4332

LEAD

THE PHILADELPHIA OFFICE,
AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Will review information furnished by BLACK and prepare data chronologically in statement form for BLACK's signature.

REFERENCE:

Philadelphia report of SA ROBERT G. JENSEN dated April 26, 1951.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **PHILADELPHIA**

FILE NO. **65-4332** **J119**

REPORT MADE AT PHILADELPHIA	DATE WHEN 6/7/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/19; 5/17/51	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT O. JENSEN
TITLE THOMAS L. BLACK, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

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ELTON R. ALLISON
PETER IVANOVICH BARANOV
JACOB MONESS MONESS
SAMUEL BRONSTEIN
CONWAY DAVIES
VLADIMIR KAZAKEVICH
NORMAN CHARDLER BURSLE
ERNEST NUOHIM WRIGHT
ELISA DEDACHT

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau (65-59181) 1 New York (65-15338) (Info.) 3 Philadelphia			

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

SAC, Philadelphia

June 8, 1951

Director, FBI

SARAH PEBECCA WEINSTOCK,
nee HERSHER, was.
SECURITY MATTER - C
(Philadelphia file 100-23781)

31553

Re closing report of SA Theron D. Rushing dated 10-5-49 at Philadelphia. Refrep reflects that subject was a member of the Communist Party in Philadelphia for many years and attended a CP leaders school in Philadelphia in 1945. Subject was expelled from the Communist Party in 1949 for "immorality and inverted white chauvinism."

THOMAS LESSING BLACK

Refrep of SA William B. Walte, Jr., dated 7-26-50, at Philadelphia in the case entitled "Thomas L. Black, was; Espionage - R," Philadelphia file 65-4332. Page 191 reflects that Black, a confessed Soviet espionage agent, resided at the home of Sarah Hersher, 2124 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, from 1946 to 1948.

Re Newark report of SA Louis G. Turner 12-5-50 in the case entitled "Jacob Israel Fass; Espionage - R," Philadelphia file 65-4415. Refrep reflects that Fass, a friend and business associate of Thomas L. Black, admitted to Bureau agents that his cousin, Sarah Hersher, the subject, was undoubtedly a Communist. Fass resided at Hersher's home with Black.

Philadelphia is requested to contact informants to ascertain Hersher's status in the Communist Party at the present time. If Hersher has been readmitted to the Communist Party, Philadelphia should consider her name for the Security Index.

Philadelphia should submit its recommendation regarding an interview with the subject using her acquaintance with Thomas L. Black as an entree for an interview. If Hersher is hostile to the CP, the possibility exists that she may be used as a source of information concerning Communist matters by the Philadelphia Office.

Investigation in the Black case is to show that Hersher was aware of or connected with the espionage activities of Black.

For your information, the Department of Justice has recently rendered the opinion that Black should be called before a Federal Grand Jury for interrogation regarding his espionage activities. This information was previously furnished to Philadelphia in the Black case.

100-365025

EL:mem:ems

165-39181-✓
NOT RECORDED
106 JUL 12 1951

52 JUL 19 1951

DUPLICATE YELLOW

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-365025

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA
SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R
(Bufile 65-59181)

DATE: June 25, 1951

Card U.T.D.

7-13-51

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above captioned individual.

~~XXXX~~ The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME _____

ALIASES _____

RACE _____ SEX _____ NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS 530 Berks Street, Philadelphia, Pa. _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) _____

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Strategic and Vital Industry List) _____

RGJ:llw
65-4332

RECORDED - 122

FX-129

JUN 26 1951

65-59181-310
L. J. Berg
Ad. fl

(5) JUN 26 1951

878

Director, FBI

July 30, 1951

SAC, Philadelphia

DAVID WEINTRAUB
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
(Bufile 100-338861)

215-21

Re New York report of SA JAMES J. McCARTHY dated June 5, 1951.

In accordance with request set forth in referenced report, a photograph of subject was shown to THOMAS L. BLACK on July 26, 1951. He advised that he had never seen or met the subject.

This matter is considered RUC.

RGJ/nch
65-4576
cc: 65-4332

CC: New York (65-15101)

ORIGINAL FILED IN 65-59181-1

65-59181-1 ✓
NOT RECORDED

57 AUG 9 1951

52 AUG 10 1951

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

~~SECRET~~

SAC, Philadelphia

July 27, 1951

Director, FBI

 **B1**
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

B1

Enclosure

cc - New York (Enclosure)
Washington Field (Enclosure)
Chicago (Enclosure)
Seattle (Enclosure)
Portland (Enclosure)
San Francisco (Enclosure)
Los Angeles (Enclosure)

cc - 65-59181

LCN:hmb *hmb*

~~Classified 4912~~
~~Exempt from GDS, Category 2,3~~
~~Date of Declassification indefinite~~
~~AP/KS 2/8/78~~

~~APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) CLASSIFICATION
DATE 2/8/78~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

~~SECRET~~

65-59181-✓
NOT RECORDED
57 AUG 15 1951

DUPLICATE YELLOW

400
240
53 AUG 27 1951

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-342424-

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R
(Bufile 65-59181)

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: 7/23/51

On 7/17/51, THOMAS L. BLACK advised that in all probability he would soon receive from the Justice Department a letter requesting him to register as a former Soviet espionage agent. BLACK stated that when he received this letter he intended to comply with it. He, however, said he had a request to make in connection with the expected letter from the Justice Department. He said that he has recently moved and at his new address he has a common mailbox with other tenants in the building. As a result, he said the mail he receives is handled by the other tenants. Therefore, he said that if it were at all possible, he would appreciate receiving his notice to register through the Philadelphia FBI Office. (u)

BLACK was told that no promises of any kind could be given him but his wishes in this matter would be made known. (u)

It is suggested that the Bureau, if possible, make arrangements with the Department to deliver its request of BLACK to register through the Philadelphia Office. (u)

B1

RGJ:mbq
65-4332

Classified by 4913
Exempt from GDS Category 2,3
Date of Declassification Indefinite

APR 1959 2/8/58

RECORDED - 134

65-59181-311

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OTHERWISE
APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE 2/16/84

CONFIDENTIAL

EX-129

EQ

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

August 15, 1951

SAC, Philadelphia

Director, FBI

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.

ESPIONAGE - R

Philadelphia file 65-4332

Reurlet 7-23-51 which set forth a request on the part of Black to have the Department mail his notice to Register under the Internal Security Act of 1950 to the Philadelphia FBI office instead of to his residence. (u)

In view of the fact that Black has admitted engaging in espionage activity for the Soviet Union over a period of many years and, further, since the Bureau has presented his case to the Department for prosecutive consideration on various occasions, it is not believed advisable for the Bureau to assume the role of a mail drop for Black to save him possible embarrassment. (u)

While Black has given the Bureau information since about June, 1950, it is to be noted that Black has not admitted the passage to the Soviets of any classified information or information vital to the national defense, which admissions would tend to involve him in a violation of espionage statutes. It is difficult to believe that the Soviets would have been in contact with Black from about 1934 to as late as 1950 if he were not furnishing them with pertinent information. (u)

It is also noted that it was necessary for the Bureau to go to Black and question him regarding his espionage activity and that he did not come voluntarily to the Bureau. (u)

Black should be informed that any requests such as the one in reflet should be made directly to the Department by Black. (u)

65-59181-311

Classified by 4413

Exempt from GDS, Category 2, 3

Date of Declassification Indefinite

AP/CS 2/9/78

COMM - FBI

AUG 16 1951

MAILED 27

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: August 10, 1951

FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was
ESPIONAGE - R
(BUFILE 65-59181)

The information set forth in this letter was not included in the Philadelphia report of SA ROBERT G. JENSEN dated 8/10/51 as it contained information of no particular significance as far as the United States Attorney's office is concerned.

The following listed people were discussed with THOMAS L. BLACK on the dates indicated:

NORMAN CHANDLER BURSLE - - 5/17/51
ROSE ARENAL - - 6/23/51
VIOLA ROBINSON - - 6/23/51
DAVID OPOCZYNSKI - - 7/26/51
HENRY NATHAN SHOIKET and parents - - 7/26/51
DAVID WEINTRAUB - - 7/26/51
ADRIAN W. ROSENBAUM - 7/26/51
LOUIS N. ROSENBAUM - - 7/26/51
PAUL ELILIF PEDERSEN - - 7/26/51

THOMAS L. BLACK was unable to identify or furnish any pertinent information concerning any of the above listed people.

RQJ:JGB
65-4332

cc: New York (65-15338)

RECORDED - 8 | 65-59181-312
AUG. 14 1951

7401
AUG 20 1951

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

PHILADELPHIA

FILE NO. 65-4332 JGB

REPORT MADE AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.	DATE WHEN MADE 8/10/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/23/51	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT G. JENSEN
TITLE THOMAS L. BLACK, was		AGENCY <i>See serials</i> REQ. REC'D REP'T FORW. <i>7-15-51</i> BY <i>[Signature]</i>	CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

THOMAS L. BLACK in signed statement furnished 6/23/51 advised he originally sought employment in Soviet Union in late 1933 or early 1934. Original contact in furtherance of this idea was GAIK OVAKIMIAN, an Amtorg official. BLACK furnished OVAKIMIAN various processes and formulae from his place of employment, the National Oil Products Company. OVAKIMIAN subsequently introduced BLACK to PAUL PETERSEN who was also a Soviet agent. BLACK states he realized early in relationship with PETERSEN that he was destined to become a Soviet espionage agent. He gave PETERSEN all information available at NOPCO. Shortly after meeting PETERSEN, BLACK introduced HARRY GOLD to him. BLACK was given various assignments by PETERSEN. He also states he gave PETERSEN fake reports on industrial processes. At direction of PETERSEN, BLACK joined Socialist Party and gathered information for Soviet superior. PETERSEN gave BLACK various presents. Following PETERSEN, BLACK was handled by "GEORGE" who was identified as SEMEN M. SEMENOV by BLACK. Following "GEORGE" BLACK was contacted by Dr. ROBERT SCHWARTZ from whom he received \$100. Dr. SCHWARTZ told BLACK he was to go to Mexico City and ingratiate himself with the Trotsky household. BLACK says he never went. SCHWARTZ has been identified by BLACK as being Dr. G. L. RABINOVICH of the Soviet Red Cross. After SCHWARTZ and in the period from late 1938 until 1940 the sequence of events is not clear to BLACK. He states the Soviet superiors during that period were principally interested in Trotskyite Intelligence information. Beginning in 1940 and continuing until the summer of 1945, BLACK was handled by "JACK." The information furnished to "JACK" was principally industrial in nature. Over a period of six months in 1944, BLACK received \$100 monthly from "JACK" while supposedly looking for employment. After a lapse of approximately two years, BLACK was recontacted by the Soviets. Arrangements for a meeting with "JACK" were made. This meeting took place in New York City. A photograph of JOSEPH KATZ was identified as "JACK" by THOMAS L. BLACK. A new contact by the name of "HELEN" was arranged for BLACK. He states he never met "HELEN". At one time GOLD brought a potential

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>A. Cornish, Jr.</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPY IN FILE 5-Bureau (65-59181) 1-USA, Philadelphia 1-New York (65-15338) (Info) 3-Philadelphia. <i>1 CC ABE McIVER 7-15-51</i>	65-59181-313 RECORDED - 74 AUG 14 1951 <i>[Signature]</i>
	INDEXED - 74

recruit for Soviet espionage to BLACK's apartment in Newark, N.J. BLACK, in a written report to PAUL PETERSEN, recommended JOSEPH BRODSKY not be recruited. BLACK states he was unwilling Soviet espionage agent and never furnished any classified or restricted material. He also states he never received any large sums of money.

- P -

DETAILS:

AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.

On June 23, 1951, THOMAS L. BLACK furnished the following signed statement to Special Agents WILLIAM B. WELTE and ROBERT W. HOLMES.

"I, THOMAS L. BLACK, furnish voluntarily the following information to ROBERT W. HOLMES and WILLIAM B. WELTE, known to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to me. I have been told I do not have to make any statement at all, and any statement I make may be used against me in a court of law. I have also been told of my right to counsel.

"In late 1933 or early 1934, while I was employed at the National Oil Products Company in Harrison, New Jersey, FERDINAND P. HELLER, an old college classmate, and I decided to seek employment in the Soviet Union. This decision was reached after considerable thought and discussion. It was during this period that I dropped my membership in the Communist Party, partly because I understood that the Communist International would not permit a Party member to leave his work in the United States and go to the Soviet Union.

"In my discussions with HELLER, I realized we had no knowledge as to how to apply for work in Russia. I suggested that in connection with my work, I had accumulated considerable information on the sulfonation of oils and if the right people were contacted, it might be possible to go to Russia as oil chemists.

"The original contact in furtherance of this plan was made by HELLER. He went to Antorg Headquarters in New York City and met GAIK OVAKIMIAN there.

The purpose of the visit was explained and subsequent arrangements for meeting with OVAKIMIAN were made. The first meeting between OVAKIMIAN, HELLER and myself was held in the Amtorg offices in New York City in October 1934. OVAKIMIAN questioned me closely about my qualifications as a chemist, about my knowledge of sulfonating oils and other technical questions. I volunteered to produce various formulae which I had in my possession and OVAKIMIAN displayed interest.

"The material which I had in my possession was typed into report form by HELLER and myself for submission to OVAKIMIAN. However, before the project was completed, OVAKIMIAN became impatient and collected the rough notes, saying the Russians had technical men who would be able to figure out the processes from the notes. No money was paid to me for these processes and formulae from the National Oil Products Company. I am not certain of the dates upon which I met OVAKIMIAN but do believe my meetings were for a period of six months after the initial meeting. In that period I met with OVAKIMIAN about ten or twelve times. HELLER was present at most of these meetings.

"Toward the end of this six month period, HELLER was emotionally upset, irritable, and drank heavily because of personal problems. OVAKIMIAN commented about HELLER's condition to me and asked the reason for it. I told him I believed HELLER to be neurotic and emotionally unstable. To the best of my knowledge, OVAKIMIAN had no dealings with HELLER after that.

"After this, there was a period of approximately two months wherein I did not have contact with any Russians. I was contacted by OVAKIMIAN again and arrangements for a meeting in New York City were made. At this meeting, OVAKIMIAN told me, while walking on the street, he had a friend he wanted me to meet. Several blocks from the place we met, I was introduced to a man waiting for us on a street corner. This man was introduced to me as PAUL PETERSEN. The three of us, OVAKIMIAN, PETERSEN and myself, had dinner together. As near as I can place this date, it happened in the early part of 1935. I would like to say that after this dinner engagement, I never saw OVAKIMIAN again. The only material that I turned over to OVAKIMIAN was material that I had ready access to at my place of employment, the National Oil Products Company. I have been shown photographs of GAIK OVAKIMIAN and have identified him as the person whom I knew as OVAKIMIAN.

"I began to meet with PAUL PETERSEN with some degree of regularity in 1935 and continued until late 1937 or early 1938.

"At one of my first meetings with PETERSEN, he questioned me about my membership in the Communist Party. He was pleased when I told him that I had dropped out of the Communist Party. PETERSEN told me that I must not

associate with any known Communist Party members, nor must I have in my possession or read any Party literature. I remember one time when we were together, he reprimanded me for stopping at a news stand to buy a copy of "New Masses."

"Early in my relationship with PETERSEN, I tried to find out what my chances of getting a position in Russia were. PETERSEN evaded and delayed the issue, but did eventually tell me, I could be of much greater value to the Soviet Union in this country than in Russia. I realized then there was no possibility of my going to the Soviet Union and I was destined to become a Soviet espionage agent.

"PETERSEN requested that I furnish him with a biographical sketch, setting out my complete background. I complied with this request. I retained a copy of the sketch which I submitted to PETERSEN. This sketch contains a reference to my having been made a Bacteriologist at National Oil Products Company in the fall of 1935. This to me would indicate that I submitted this sketch sometime in the late fall of 1935 or shortly after being appointed Bacteriologist.

"I furnished to PETERSEN all the information that was available at National Oil Products Company. After I had done this, PETERSEN suggested that I try to get a job at a large chemical company such as Du Pont or Monsanto as more important work was being done there. However, I never did apply for a position at either of these plants. I was able to convince PETERSEN that jobs were not plentiful and could not be had by merely filing an application.

"Shortly after I met PETERSEN, HARRY GOLD, whom I had met through HELLER, came to my apartment in Newark, N.J. From my apartment, GOLD and I went to New York City, where by pre-arrangement, we met PETERSEN. I believe this meeting took place in Gaffanti's Restaurant near the Pennsylvania Station. I think I used HARRY GOLD's full and correct name in the introduction, but probably introduced PETERSEN as simply PAUL. About a week or two after this introduction, I was told by PETERSEN I must cease my friendship with GOLD and never see him again. I did not comply with these instructions as I remained friendly with GOLD and did see him intermittently in the following years.

"I submitted biographical sketches on VERA VANE, with whom HELLER had been living; Dr. KARL STEIK, my superior at National Oil Products Company; FERDINAND P. HELIER; and ERNEST SEESSEMAN, a fellow employee at NOPCO and with whom I was living. These sketches were all submitted to PETERSEN at his request.

"In early 1935, PETERSEN told me he had a specific assignment for me to do in connection with a Jewish group. In order for me to fulfill this assignment, it would be necessary for me to become a Jew temporarily and perhaps even marry a Jewish girl. I was also told that if I were not circumcised, I should have the operation performed. After some delay, I went to a Dr. PAUL LUTTINGER, who was writing a health column in the "Daily Worker." I was referred to a Dr. JOSEPH LANDY, a surgeon, who admitted me to the Bronx Hospital on June 7, 1935, and performed the operation. I reported to PETERSEN when the operation was over. He asked me what doctor I had gone to and what I had told the doctor. When I told PETERSEN I had seen both LUTTINGER and LANDY and told them both I was going to marry a Jewish girl, he became very angry. He had already indicated to me the assignment was in some way connected with work among Jewish refugees who were technical people. PETERSEN told me that I should have never gone to LUTTINGER as he was in trouble with the Communist Party. I was also told that it was impossible for me to fulfill this assignment and it was never mentioned again.

"Another time early in my association with PETERSEN, I mentioned that the Westinghouse Electric Company had brought out a new ultra-violet light and asked if he were interested in it. He said he was. Thereupon, I purchased a bulb, reflector and transformer and asked PETERSEN where he wanted it delivered. I was told to assemble the lamp in a suit case or box, which I did. I would like to point out that HARRY GOLD accompanied me to New York City and registered on a Saturday at the Chelsea Hotel with me. He assisted me in preparing a metal framework within the suitcase so that the ultra-violet lamp was portable. When the work was completed, I checked the suitcase in the baggage room of the Pennsylvania Station and on the following Monday gave the baggage check to PETERSEN. I received the sum of \$25.00 from PETERSEN for expenses incurred on this assignment. I had to give PETERSEN sales slips for the material I had purchased to support my claim for expenses.

"I also gave PETERSEN several fake reports on industrial processes. One of these was a report on the germicidal properties of an ointment called uforsan, developed by Dr. KARL P. STEIK. I also submitted reports on the manufacture of toothpaste, the manufacture of hexylresorcinol and toothpaste containing it. I used fictitious names as my source of information in these reports.

Dr. Paul Luttinger & Employed by Daily Worker
(EMPL CARD)

"PETERSEN at one time offered to send me to the California Institute of Technology to study for my Master's or Doctor's Degree and during my stay there to make contact with some person who was never identified. I never accepted this offer of PETERSEN's and I did not go to California.

"PETERSEN was a generous man and gave me a series of presents including books, laboratory equipment, and a camera, as well as having offered to set me up in some kind of business that I could operate as a front for my espionage activities. The first set of books I received was a standard technical work of three volumes and an appendix published by MacMillan called the 'Chemical Technology and Analysis of Oils, Fats and Waxes' by LEFKOWICH. The names of the other books I do not recall. The next gift was a Contax 3 Camera with a built-in exposure meter. I traded this camera in about a year later for a Contax 2 model. Somewhat later, JACK, who was my Soviet superior, asked for the camera PETERSEN had given me. He gave me a tongue lashing for having traded the original camera saying I had no right to do so. However, JACK did borrow my camera saying he needed it to give to another man who was going on a trip to the West Coast. In about three months the camera was returned to me.

"I can also remember that early in my dealings with PETERSEN he continually pressed me for a photograph of myself. For several months, I resisted, but finally at one of our meetings, I was steered into a store where there was a machine which could take a photograph by the insertion of a coin. Under the circumstances, I could do nothing but agree to have my picture taken. PETERSEN then told me that he was only testing me to see if I was cooperative and it was not necessary to have my photograph taken, since the Soviets already had several pictures of me in their possession.

"At one time, while the trials in Moscow were going on, about 1936, the subject of these trials came up. I expressed some mild disapproval and said that if things like that were going on in Russia, I would consider joining the Trotskyites. This angered PETERSEN and he left without any arrangements being made for a future meeting.

"After a few weeks, I heard from PETERSEN and did meet with him in New-York City. At this meeting, I was told it would be an excellent idea for me to join the Trotskyite Movement. I was given specific instructions about joining the Socialist Party which I did.

"I would like to point out that when the cleavage in the Socialist Party came, I went with the Trotskyite faction. This was done at the instructions of my Soviet superior. I also became a charter member of the Socialist Workers Party, which was the Trotskyite group formed as a result of the split in the Socialist Party.

"My first assignment in connection with the Trotskyite membership was to get background information about JACK WEBER, the Organizer of the Trotskyite Faction in Newark, and his wife SARAH as well as two other people who turned out not to be members. I completed this assignment and gave the information to PETERSEN.

"Also during this period, PETERSEN gave me an assignment not connected with the Trotskyite movement. This was to locate an individual known to PETERSEN only as NICHOLS and in residence in East Rutherford, New Jersey. PETERSEN told me NICHOLS had formerly worked with the Soviets and they were trying to recontact him. I was never able to locate him and so reported to PETERSEN. The assignment was then dropped.

"I have not been able to identify positively PETERSEN from any of the photographs I have been shown. I cannot definitely place the time of my last contact with PETERSEN but believe it was late in 1937.

"PETERSEN introduced me to my next contact, whom I knew as GEORGE. I can recall that I was handled by GEORGE for about three or four months prior to my accident, which took place on March 10, 1938. My contacts with GEORGE were few and nothing much about them stands out in my mind. I seem to recall that he was primarily interested in industrial espionage.

"I have been shown a photograph of SEMEN M. SEMENOV and I have identified him as the contact known to me as GEORGE.

"I was hospitalized as the result of a laboratory explosion and spent twenty weeks in the West Hudson Hospital at Kearney, New Jersey. I realized that while in the hospital the Soviets had no way to contact me. I had also learned from some of my friends that some strangers were making inquiries about me. I assumed that these strangers were Soviet agents making inquiry about me. I felt then I should advise the Soviets of my whereabouts. The only method I knew of relaying information about myself was to get in touch with HARRY GOLD which I did by telephone. GOLD came to visit me at the hospital and I asked him to tell his Soviet superior that I was going to be incapacitated for a considerable period of time. GOLD also visited me a second time while I was in the hospital.

"I believe it was a month or so before my release in August of 1938 from the hospital that a Dr. ROBERT SCHWARTZ appeared in my room and introduced himself as a friend of GEORGE. I believe SCHWARTZ was actually a medical man. His chief concern seemed to be my condition, the speed of my recovery and my financial condition. He visited me only once while I was in the hospital.

"About a month after my discharge I received a telephone call from Dr. SCHWARTZ who identified himself by name. A meeting was arranged at the Pennsylvania Railroad Station in Newark, New Jersey. Dr. SCHWARTZ inquired about my physical condition and gave me \$100.00 to consult a good plastic surgeon or dermatologist about my injuries. Dr. SCHWARTZ told me he had an important assignment in mind for me and wanted me to get well as quickly as possible.

"I met with SCHWARTZ two more times after this. He told me that he planned for me to go to Mexico City and ingratiate myself with the TROTSKY household. I objected and told him it would be extremely difficult, however, SCHWARTZ said it was my assignment. At my last contact with SCHWARTZ he told me a new contact would get in touch with me.

"I would like to state here that I never did go to Mexico.

"At a later date while being handled by a Soviet superior called JACK we discussed the identities of Dr. ROBERT SCHWARTZ and a Dr. G. L. RABINOVICH of the Soviet Red Cross and concluded they were identical.

"Following Dr. SCHWARTZ, I was contacted by an individual known to me as JOHN. His principal interest was in connection with the Socialist Workers Party. He continued to press me to make some effort to fulfill the Mexico City assignment. I do not remember much about JOHN but do believe I was first handled by him in the winter of 1938-1939.

"A few times during this period another person whom I knew as KARL contacted me as a substitute for JOHN. KARL was chiefly interested in the TROTSKYITE movement.

"JOHN reappeared and handled me until sometime in 1940. He introduced me to my next contact, JACK. However, about a year later JOHN reappeared as a substitute for JACK.

"I attended the Socialist Workers Party Plenum that was held in Chicago, Illinois September 27 - 29, 1940. I did not attend as a delegate but

merely as an observer. JACK told me that he was not particularly interested in having me attend this convention or secure any information. I have concluded the Soviet's interest in TROTSKYITE information was complete with the assassination of TROTSKY which happened prior to this September convention.

"JACK's particular interest was in the field of industrial espionage. I furnished him with reports on SORBOSE, PENICILLIN and some reports on shaving cream. These were reports that I personally prepared as a result of independent study of literature and material available on these topics.

"JACK began to insist that I leave my place of employment and seek work at DU PONT, EASTMAN KODAK, MONSANTO CHEMICAL CO., or the KELLEX CORPORATION. I lost my job at NOPCO in the summer of 1944. After this JACK paid me \$100 a month for six months. He said this was done so that I could live while looking around for the type work he wanted me to do. He also asked me at one time to purchase for him a Minox Camera but I was unable to get one as the United States was at war.

"At JACK's direction, I made contact with two individuals. One of these persons was Dr. EARL WILLIAM FLOSDORF, a Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. This contact I believe to have been in connection with some legitimate business dealings that FLOSDORF had had with AMTORG in the past. I made this contact sometime in 1942 and only met Dr. FLOSDORF once. He agreed to do business with AMTORG as he had in the past. By way of introduction to FLOSDORF I took a letter that bore the signature of Dr. G. L. RABINOVICH. The letter referred to the writer as having previously been in the United States as a representative of the Soviet Red Cross. I posed as an AMTORG representative and used the name GEORGE WILLIAMS.

"The other contact was a person who was an employee of the Hercules Powder Company at Wilmington, Delaware. His name was WILLIAM STAPLER. I did not keep the original appointment with STAPLER. About a month later JACK arranged a meeting in New York City between STAPLER, myself and JACK. I was introduced to STAPLER and he was told I would be his contact from then on. This meeting took place in 1944 as near as I can remember. All told I think I had three meetings with STAPLER. At no time did STAPLER give me anything to transmit to the Soviets. I do remember that on one occasion STAPLER said he would furnish nothing until he was paid what was owed him. I gave this information to JACK who gave me some money that he took from his wallet placed in an envelope and sealed. The following week I met STAPLER at the Pennsylvania Railroad Station in Newark and gave him the envelope, whereupon he wrote out a receipt. STAPLER appeared dissatisfied with the amount and told me to tell JACK how valuable the information was.

"JACK told me to let STAPLER wait for a while. I never saw STAPLER again.

"I have been shown a photograph of WILLIAM STAPLER, an employee of Hercules Powder Co. in Wilmington, Delaware, and he is identical with the person I met.

"As near as I can recall, my last regular contact with JACK was in the summer of 1945 in New York City. This meeting occurred after I started to work in Philadelphia.

"I heard nothing from the Soviets until sometime in 1947 or 1948. Contact was re-established by a phone call made to my place of employment in Philadelphia. I did not receive the call but a message was left. This message was that a person by the name of WATKINS had called and said he had known me in England while we were both in the Service. I knew this must have been a Soviet Agent as I had never been in the Service. This call meant I was to go to the place of my last contact on the day following this call. However, I had forgotten the place of my last contact and accordingly did not go.

"About a week later, I received a person to person call at my place of employment from a man whose name I did not recognize. I did recognize the voice as belonging to JACK. I made arrangements to meet with him in New York City in front of MACY's Department Store at 34th and Broadway. We spent the meeting, which lasted about one hour, in walking the streets. JACK asked me if I would be willing to resume my relations with the Soviets. I agreed to this but told JACK such a move would be inadvisable as I was under investigation by a Government agency. JACK said it would be possible for the Soviets to learn of this but it would require some time.

"JACK also told me that he would not meet with me any more and arrangements for meeting a new contact were made.

"I have been shown a photograph of JOSEPH KATZ and I have identified him as the person I knew as JACK. At no time did I receive any funds or presents from JACK beyond expenses, except the \$600 I have previously mentioned.

"My next contact was to have been a woman whose name was HELEN. I never did meet this woman. I do believe I was supposed to meet with her sometime after my last regular contact with JACK which occurred in 1945. This would place the time of my intended contact with her in 1946 or 1947.

My meeting with her was to have been in New York City. I never did comply with instructions given me for meeting her.

"At the time of my last meeting with JACK, probably in 1947, I was given instructions for future contacts with the SOVIETS. I was told that a woman would call me at work and say she was Miss WATKINS. This was to be a signal for me to go to a prearranged meeting place in Philadelphia. I heard nothing from this intended contact until May 22, 1950. Once again I did not receive the phone call at my place of employment but a message was left for me that a Miss WATKINS called. This message signified to me that I was to go to the previously designated meeting place and would be contacted there by a man. I did not comply with my instructions for establishing this contact. I have never had any contact since that time.

"Before closing, I would like to add a couple of additional items. In the summer of 1935, HARRY GOLD brought an individual named JOSEPH BRODSKY to my apartment in Newark, New Jersey. GOLD told me BRODSKY was a fellow student of his at the Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia. I was told by GOLD that he considered BRODSKY excellent material from which to develop a Soviet Agent. I spent considerable time talking to BRODSKY and came to the conclusion that BRODSKY was not ideologically suited for Soviet espionage. I came to this conclusion for BRODSKY could not see the need for disassociating himself from the mass movements. I submitted a written report on BRODSKY to my Soviet superior, PAUL PETERSEN, wherein I expressed my opinion that BRODSKY should not be recruited.

"The other item concerns material which I received from FERDINAND P. HELLER. I have previously said that as far as I knew OVAKIMIAN, my first contact, expressed no additional interest in HELLER after our discussion of HELLER's emotional instability. I myself had nothing to do with HELLER for a few years after that. It was not until late 1936 or early 1937 HELLER and I became reconciled. At this time, HELLER proposed to give me information concerning THERMOIL-GRANODINE which was in the files of the American Chemical Paint Company. I agreed to accept this information for transmission to the Soviets. HELLER and I wrote up this information in report form. HELLER also gave me the formulae for all the products and processes of the American Chemical Paint Company. HELLER brought this information to VERA KANE's hotel room in New York City. The formulae and processes were typed by her. KANE was HELLER's girl friend during the mid-thirties.

"The information on THERMOIL-GRANODINE I turned over to my Soviet superior. However, the material that KANE typed I never did turn over to the Soviets. I kept a copy of the material for a period and then returned it to VERA KANE.

"In closing, I would like to state that I was an unwilling Soviet espionage agent during the entire period I was involved. I would also like to say that at no time did I ever furnish the Soviets with any classified or restricted material. I never received any large sums of money that I have not mentioned in this statement.

"I have read the above statement, this and the preceeding 18 pages. It is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief." I have initialed each page.

/s/ THOMAS L. BLACK."

"Witnesses

ROBERT W. HOLMES, FBI, Philadelphia, Pa.

WILLIAM B. WELTE, JR., FBI, Philadelphia, Pa."

- PENDING -

PH - 65-4332

ADMINISTRATIVE

LEADS

THE PHILADELPHIA OFFICE
AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Will maintain contact with the U. S. Attorney's Office to determine what, if any, future action is contemplated concerning THOMAS L. BLACK.

REFERENCE:

Report of SA ROBERT G. JENSEN dated 6/7/51 at
Philadelphia, Pa.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

PHILADELPHIA

FILE NO. 65-4332 JMB

REPORT MADE AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.	DATE WHEN MADE 8/10/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/23/51	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT O. JENSEN
TITLE THOMAS L. BLACK, was			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

THOMAS L. BLACK in signed statement furnished 6/23/51 advised he originally sought employment in Soviet Union in late 1933 or early 1934. Original contact in furtherance of this idea was GUY OVAKIMIAN, an Astorg official. BLACK furnished OVAKIMIAN various processes and formulas from his place of employment, the National Oil Products Company. OVAKIMIAN subsequently introduced BLACK to PAUL PETERSEN who was also a Soviet agent. BLACK states he realized early in relationship with PETERSEN that he was destined to become a Soviet espionage agent. He gave PETERSEN all information available at NPOCO. Shortly after meeting PETERSEN, BLACK introduced HARRY GULM to him. BLACK was given various assignments by PETERSEN. He also states he gave PETERSEN fake reports on industrial processes. At direction of PETERSEN, BLACK joined Socialist Party and gathered information for Soviet superior. PETERSEN gave BLACK various presents. Following PETERSEN, BLACK was handled by "GEORGE" who was identified as SEMEN M. SEMENOV by BLACK. Following "GEORGE" BLACK was contacted by Dr. ROBERT SCHWARTZ from whom he received \$100. Dr. SCHWARTZ told BLACK he was to go to Mexico City and ingratiate himself with the Trotsky household. BLACK says he never went. SCHWARTZ has been identified by BLACK as being Dr. O. L. RABINOVICH of the Soviet Red Cross. After SCHWARTZ and in the period from late 1938 until 1940 the sequence of events is not clear to BLACK. He states the Soviet superiors during that period were principally interested in Trotskyite Intelligence information. Beginning in 1940 and continuing until the summer of 1945, BLACK was handled by "JACK." The information furnished to "JACK" was principally industrial in nature. Over a period of six months in 1944, BLACK received \$100 monthly from "JACK" while supposedly looking for employment. After a lapse of approximately two years, BLACK was recontacted by the Soviets. Arrangements for a meeting with "JACK" were made. This meeting took place in New York City. A photograph of JOSEPH KATZ was identified as "JACK" by THOMAS L. BLACK. A new contact by the name of "HILLEN" was arranged for BLACK. He states he never met "HILLEN". At one time GOLD brought a potential

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Assistant Attorney General
James M. McInerney

September 10, 1951

Director, FBI

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

24552

Reference is made to your letter dated April 30, 1951, stating that before Black's registration under the Internal Security Act of 1950 is solicited he should be summoned before a Federal Grand Jury for a thorough interrogation of his espionage activities.

In order that this case may be brought to a logical conclusion, it would be appreciated if you would advise the Bureau regarding the status of Black's registration under the Internal Security Act of 1950, as well as the status concerning his appearance before a Federal Grand Jury.

65-59181

EL:apn *mpm*

DECLASSIFIED BY 4913
ON 2/8/78

RECEIVED ALABAMA
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
SEP 10 7 37 PM '51

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
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RECORDED - 102

65-59181-314

EX - 67

SEP 18 1951

SEP 21

COMM. FBI
SEP 11 1951
MAILED 19

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BRANCH**

34550

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 10/31/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/23,25/51	REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM E. SCOVILL RES. SECTION
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECT, wa. Nichols, East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK - Informant			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: RICHARD U. NICHOLAS is a retired Brigadier General, USA, presently residing San Mateo, California, who graduated from the Military Academy of West Point in 1913.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-style: italic; font-size: 1.2em;">Best copy reproduced</p> <p>DETAILS: <u>AT WASHINGTON, D. C.</u></p> <p>THOMAS L. BLACK, known espionage agent, has stated that, in 1935, he was instructed by his Soviet superior to locate a man named NICHOLS (ph), who lived in East Rutherford, New Jersey. He was informed that NICHOLS was a metallurgist, a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and had a hobby of microscopy. The name, RICHARD U. NICHOLAS, appeared on the membership list of the American Microscopical Society.</p> <p>The United States Army Officers' Files, Pentagon Building, reflect RICHARD VINCENT NICHOLAS, Serial Number 0-5532, attended the Military Academy at West Point from 1909 to 1913, and was commissioned June 12, 1913. He attended the Army War College, Washington, D. C., during the 1939-1941 term. In 1945, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General while serving in Europe and was retired effective as of September 30, 1946. His last address was listed as 221 West 3rd Avenue, San Mateo, California. The records disclose that from the time he was commissioned in 1913 to his retirement in 1946, he served continuously in the Corps of Engineers, USA.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		65-59181-✓	
<p>④ - Bureau (65-59334)</p> <p>3 - Newark (65-1116)</p> <p>2 - Washington Field (65-5934)</p>		<p>NOT RECORDED</p> <p>142 NOV 8 1951</p>	

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WFO 65-5934

31557

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent J. HAYWARD COHEN
dated October 10, 1951, at Detroit.

SAC, Philadelphia

September 17, 1951

Director, FBI

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
(Urfile 65-4332)

31523

ReBulet 5-7-51 which stated the opinion of Assistant Attorney General James M. McInerney to the Philadelphia division. You were instructed therein to set out this opinion in the next investigative report from your office. A review of the Bureau file in instant case fails to reflect that this was done.

Philadelphia should set out the above-mentioned opinion in its next report.

Philadelphia should contact U.S.A. Gleason as to when Black will be summoned before a grand jury. You will recall that reflet of 5-7-51 reflected that the Department desired that Black be called before a Federal Grand Jury before he is requested to register under the Internal Security Act of 1950.

For your information the Bureau requested Mr. McInerney, by letter dated September 10, 1951, to advise the Bureau when Black's registration under the Internal Security Act of 1950 will be solicited as well as his status concerning his appearance before a Federal Grand Jury.

65-59181

EL;rmc *rmc*

RECEIVED READING ROOM
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
SEP 17 7 16 PM '51

COMM - FBI
SEP 18 1951
MAILED 21

RECORDED - 102 11 65-59181-315

SEP 20 1951

76 SEP 26 1951

- Tolson
- Ladd
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Harbo
- Alban
- Belmont
- Laughlin
- Mohr
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

DATE: 10/19/51

FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was
ESPIONAGE - R

31536

The information set forth in this letter was not included in Philadelphia report of SA ROBERT G. JENSEN dated October 19, 1951, as it contains information of no particular significance as far as the United States Attorney's Office is concerned.

The following list of people were discussed with THOMAS L. BLACK on the dates indicated:

JOSEPH FEIS BARNES
(9/3/51)

ELIZABETH BARNES
(9/3/51)

LAWRENCE SHANDEL
(9/3/51)

CHARLES PETER ATKIN
(9/3/51)

REBECCA GETZOFF
(9/3/51)

MIKHAIL ALEXANDROVICH CHALIAPIN
(9/3/51)

KONSTANTIN ALEXIEVICH CHORANOV
(9/3/51)

ZOLA SEMENOVA MIKOTINA
(9/3/51)

THOMAS L. BLACK was unable to identify or furnish any pertinent information concerning any of the above listed people.

RJC:DAD
65-4332

cc - New York (65-15338)

RECORDED-77

INDEXED-77

EX-831

65-59181-316
OCT 22 1951

[Handwritten signature]

OCT 27 1951 F 342

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

PHILADELPHIA

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT PHILADELPHIA	DATE WHEN MADE 10/19/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/8/51	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT G. JENSEN (dad)
TITLE THOMAS L. BLACK, was			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE — R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JAMES M. MCINERNEY, Assistant Attorney General, advised THOMAS L. BLACK engaged in espionage activities and comes within purview of Foreign Agents Registration Act as amended by Section 20 (a) of Internal Security Act of 1950. BLACK is to be summoned before a Federal Grand Jury before his registration is solicited. AUSA JAMES P. MCCORMICK, EDPA, anticipated summoning BLACK before a Federal Grand Jury shortly after 11/4/51.

- P -

DETAILS:

AT PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

JAMES M. MCINERNEY, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, U. S. Department of Justice, furnished the following opinion by confidential letter dated April 30, 1951.

The matter of THOMAS L. BLACK was brought to the attention of GERALD A. GLEESON, United States Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, for an expression of his views with regard to prosecution of the subject under any Federal statutes. Mr. GLEESON has expressed the view that prosecution of the subject for a violation of the Espionage Statute is barred by the Statute of Limitations and prosecution of the subject for misprision of felony would be unsuccessful because the subject merely failed to disclose knowledge of the commission of a felony. Mr. MCINERNEY also advised that the subject had engaged in espionage

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847 NOV 21 1960

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> COPY IN FILE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 65-5981-317 RECORDED - 62 EX - 3 NOV 22 1951 <i>[Signature]</i>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5-Bureau (65-59181) 1-USA, Philadelphia 1-New York (65-15338; info.) 3-Philadelphia (65-4332) 1 cc ASST. A.G. MCINERNEY 11-2-51	

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NOV 6 1951

activities and, therefore, came within the purview of the Foreign Agents Registration Act as amended by Section 20 (a) of the Internal Security Act of 1950. Mr. McINERNEY stated it was considered desirable that THOMAS L. BLACK be summoned before a Federal Grand Jury for a thorough interrogation of his espionage activities before his registration is solicited.

On October 8, 1951, Assistant United States Attorney JAMES P. MCCORMICK, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, advised that it was anticipated BLACK would be summoned before a Federal Grand Jury that would convene shortly after November 4, 1951 at Philadelphia. Mr. MCCORMICK stated the exact date that BLACK would be called was unknown, but it was anticipated BLACK would appear shortly after the Grand Jury convened.

— P E N D I N G —

PH 65-4332

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

LEADS

THE PHILADELPHIA OFFICE
AT PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

WILL maintain contact with the United States Attorney's Office and
report developments in this matter.

- - - -

REFERENCE: Report of SA ROBERT G. JENSEN
dated 8/10/51 at Philadelphia, Pa.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

PHILADELPHIA

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT PHILADELPHIA	DATE WHEN MADE 10/19/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/8/51	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT O. JENSEN (ded)
TITLE THOMAS L. BLACK, was			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE -- R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JAMES M. McINERNEY, Assistant Attorney General advised **THOMAS L. BLACK** engaged in espionage activities and comes within purview of Foreign Agents Registration Act as amended by Section 20 (a) of Internal Security Act of 1950. **BLACK** is to be summoned before a Federal Grand Jury before his registration is solicited. **AUSA JAMES P. McCORMICK, EDPA**, anticipated summoning **BLACK** before a Federal Grand Jury shortly after 11/4/51.

- P -

DETAILS:

AT PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

JAMES M. McINERNEY, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, U. S. Department of Justice, furnished the following opinion by confidential letter dated April 30, 1951.

The matter of **THOMAS L. BLACK** was brought to the attention of **GERALD A. OLDFSON**, United States Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, for an expression of his views with regard to prosecution of the subject under any Federal statutes. Mr. **OLDFSON** has expressed the view that prosecution of the subject for a violation of the Espionage Statute is barred by the Statute of Limitations and prosecution of the subject for misprision of felony would be unsuccessful because the subject merely failed to disclose knowledge of the commission of a felony. Mr. **McINERNEY** also advised that the subject had engaged in espionage

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

FROM : MR. C. E. HENNRICH

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: November 2, 1951

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

PURPOSE

To advise you that AUSA James P. McCormick, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, advised that he anticipates summoning Black before a Federal Grand Jury shortly after November 4, 1951.

BACKGROUND

You will recall that the Department by letter dated April 30, 1951, advised that prosecution of Black for violation of the espionage statute is barred by the statute of limitations and that prosecution of Black for misprision of a felony would be unsuccessful because Black merely failed to disclose knowledge of the commission of a felony. The Department advised that Black had engaged in espionage activities and therefore came within the purview of the Foreign Agents Registration Act as amended by Section 20a of the Internal Security Act of 1950. The Department therefore deemed it desirable that Black be summoned before a Federal Grand Jury for a thorough interrogation of his espionage activities before his registration is solicited.

The Philadelphia division has advised that AUSA McCormick has stated that Black will be summoned before a Federal Grand Jury shortly after November 4, 1951, at Philadelphia.

RECOMMENDATION

None. The above is for your information. You will be kept advised of pertinent developments.

65-59181

EL:mpm

RECORDED-1

NOV 6 1951

X-78

65-59181-318

NOV 11 1951

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. LADD

DATE: December 3, 1951

FROM : MR. BELMONT *EL*~~SECRET~~SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

Tolson	_____
Ladd	_____
Clegg	_____
Glavin	_____
Nichols	_____
Tracy	_____
Harbo	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

ASAC W. C. Hinze called me this morning and stated arrangements were being made by the USA's office in Philadelphia to have Thomas L. Black testify before a Federal Grand Jury relative to his espionage activities in conjunction with Harry Gold. You will recall that Black has been cooperative with our Agents in Philadelphia and has furnished details concerning his recruitment of Gold into Soviet espionage. Hinze said this case will be presented to the Grand Jury this week or next week. He stated that the Assistant U.S. Attorney is afraid if he gives the Grand Jury subpoena to the U. S. Marshal there may be some publicity concerning this matter and the USA has requested that the Bureau serve this subpoena. (u)

[REDACTED]

B1

RECOMMENDATION

There is attached for your approval a teletype to the Philadelphia Office instructing them not to serve the Grand Jury subpoena. (u)

Attachment

RJL:hc

65-59181

Classified by 4913
Exempt from GDS, Category 2,3
Date of Declassification Indefinite

AP/CSS 12/18
RECORDED - 5

165-59181-320
DEC 6 1951

~~SECRET~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

917

December 3, 1951

SAC, PHILADELPHIA

URGENT

RECORDED-9

65-59181-320

THOMAS L. BLACK, ESP-R.

REURTELEPHONE CALL RE THIS CASE. BUREAU SEES NO NECESSITY FOR AGENTS TO SERVE GRAND JURY SUBPOENA ON BLACK AND USA'S OFFICE SHOULD BE SO ADVISED.

RJL:hc

HOOVER

65-59181

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DEC 3 7 44 PM '51
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FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

DEC 3 1951

TELETYPE

76 DEC 14 1951

- Tolson
- Ladd
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Harbo
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Tele. Room
- Nease
- Gandy

850 *[Signature]*

[Signature]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59452)

FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4377)

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, wa.
John Thomas L. Black, Informant
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 1/11/52

Rebulet 10/3/51, and New York letter, 12/28/51.

On 1/10/52, THOMAS L. BLACK was shown a photograph of MARTIN YOUNG, was. BLACK advised that he had never seen or met YOUNG at any time. The various aliases and description of YOUNG were of no significance to BLACK. This matter is considered RUC.

RGJ:cmv

cc: New York (65-15415)
PH (65-4332)

RECORDED - 106
INDEXED - 106
SE 5

JAN 15 1952

17

366
50 JAN 23 1952

EX - 103

65-59181-321

J. Edgar Hoover

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)
FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)
SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 1/17/52

Rebulet dated January 14, 1952.

As of January 17, 1952, no subpoena has been served on THOMAS L. BLACK in connection with his appearance before a Federal Grand Jury.

Assistant United States Attorney JAMES PL MC CORMICK who has been handling this matter, died suddenly on January 14, 1952.

The question of which Attorney will take over the assignment in this matter will be discussed with the United States Attorney in the very near future.

RGJ/ejs

RECORDED - 71

EX-125

BRANDEAN

65-59181-322

el
J. E. L.

65 FEB 1 1952

SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)

January 14, 1952

Director, FBI (65-59181)

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

34543

Please advise the Bureau as to when subject Black will appear before the Federal Grand Jury at Philadelphia. Your telephone call of December 9, 1951, reflected that a Grand Jury subpoena would be served on Black.

EL:mpm

RECORDED - 129

65-59181-323

JAN 17 1952

62

EX - 69

JAN 14 4 01 PM '52

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FBI

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50 JAN 23 1952
JAN 14 1952
MAILED 25

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)
 FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)
 SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK
 ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 1/17/52

G.I.R. 7
 par 7-1
 par 8-1

On December 18, 1951, THOMAS L. BLACK advised that he had been seriously considering taking a position as chemist with a new firm, The Manufacturers Chemical Corporation, 925 North 9th Street, Philadelphia. This firm is a subsidiary of the Clarkson Laboratories, 919 North 9th Street, Philadelphia. BLACK said he had been offered the position by MILTON SLOAN, a salesman at Charles W. Byrd Laboratories. SLOAN will be a partner in the new firm.

BLACK said the new firm would specialize in detergents for textiles, some of which might be utilized by the military branches of this Government. He added that the type work the new firm would be able to do would not involve classified work of any nature. He also said that he did not believe SLOAN had any knowledge of his past activities. BLACK asked if his taking a position with the new firm might not jeopardize this firm in securing military contracts.

He was told that the Bureau was in no way responsible for his actions in the past and the question of his changing jobs would have to be his own decision. He was told that it was not the policy or the function of the FBI to issue clearances for individuals.

BLACK advised that he understood the Bureau's policy, but did want our office to know that he was considering the job change, as well as the possibility that on the new job he would work on Government material of a non-classified nature.

During an interview conducted on January 10, 1952, THOMAS L. BLACK advised that he was turned down for the position previously set forth herein. He advised that he had informed MORRIS COPPERSMITH, a partner in the new firm, that he, BLACK, was the infamous TROX NILES in the Readers Digest article concerning HARRY GOLD of last May 1951. BLACK stated he did not go into any details as to his relationship with HARRY GOLD, but did inform COPPERSMITH that he had been friendly with HARRY GOLD. BLACK said as a result of this revelation on his part, the new firm is not considering him for the position of chemist any more.

The foregoing is submitted for your information.

RGJ/ejs

RECORDED - 46

INDEXED - 48

JAN 18 1952

EX-125

65 FEB 1 1952

FOR MAY 1951 BY THE DIRECTOR ENTITLED
 "THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY SETS OUT INFO
 CONCERNING BLACK UNDER THE PSEUDONYM 'TROX NILES'."

ARTICLE IN READER'S DIGEST MAGAZINE

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **PHILADELPHIA**

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT PHILADELPHIA	DATE WHEN MADE 1/30/52	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/26; 9/3; 10/10; 11/23/51; 1/10/52	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT G. JENSEN (dad)
TITLE THOMAS L. BLACK, was			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

THOMAS L. BLACK on 7/26, 9/3, 10/10, 11/23/51 and 1/10/52, was interviewed re various people to determine if he had known them while he was involved in Soviet espionage. BLACK's comments concerning these individuals set out.

- P* -

DETAILS:

THOMAS L. BLACK, an admitted Soviet espionage agent, was interviewed concerning the following people on the dates indicated:

NO DISSEMINATION OF THIS REPORT IN VIEW OF MANY OTHER CASES REFERRED TO AND ALSO IN VIEW OF FACT IT CONTAINS NO PERTINENT INFORMATION.

JOSEPH GEORGE BOGORAD
July 26, 1951

JOSEPH FELS BARNES
September 3, 1951

ELIZABETH BARNES
September 3, 1951

LAWRENCE SHANDEL
September 3, 1951

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF *Classification*
DATE 2/19/78 *PSS*

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DECLASSIFIED BY **4913**
ON 2/2/78 *AP/199*

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63 FEB 18 1952

CHARLES PETER ATKIN
September 3, 1951

REBECCA GETZOFF
September 3, 1951

MIKHAIL ALEXANDROVICH CHALIAPIN
September 3, 1951

KONSTANTIN ALEXSEEVICH CHABANOV
September 3, 1951

ZOIA SEMENOVA MIKOTINA
September 3, 1951

HALFDAN HEBO
October 10, 1951

LUCY GWYNNE BRANHAN
October 10, 1951

NICHOLA NAPOLI
October 10, 1951

NIKOLAI VLADIMIROVICH SMIRNOV
November 23, 1951

ISADOR MILLER
November 23, 1951

CARL BUCHMAN
November 23, 1951

In connection with this individual, BLACK stated he believed he had seen the person in the photograph of BUCHMAN taken in 1929. However, when shown the photograph of BUCHMAN taken in 1934, BLACK said he thought they were different people. He had no recollection of ever having seen the BUCHMAN in the 1934 photograph.

BLACK was of the impression he saw the BUCHMAN in the photograph of 1929 at the Socialist Workers Party Conference, held in Chicago, Illinois, on September 27 - 29, 1940. He had no recollection of BUCHMAN there as an official or in any other capacity, however, he felt he saw him there.

The fact that CARL BUCHMAN was a musician, singer, conductor and teacher of voice and piano, meant nothing to BLACK. The name C. CENDARS, an alias of the subject, was also of no significance to BLACK.

WALTER BERNSTEIN
November 23, 1951

MADELINE ROSS
November 23, 1951

Dr. MAURICE FROCHT
November 23, 1951

BLACK stated that he was positive that he had seen this person before. He advised that he believed he had met this man on one occasion in a large six or eight room apartment in the Bronx near the Grand Concourse. BLACK said that he recalled on one occasion wandering about the Grand Concourse looking for a street that opened off of it. He believes that he was looking for the residence of the person shown to him in the photograph of FROCHT. He was not able to be more specific about the apartment or its location.

His reason for attending a party held in this apartment was in connection with raising money for the magazine "Soviet Russia Today." BLACK said this party was sponsored by the Friends of the Soviet Union. The party was in the nature of a buffet style dinner and every time food was picked up you were supposed to make a donation for the magazine, according to BLACK. The other people at the gathering were people of the intellectual type and not the "true proletariat", according to BLACK.

He advised that he has a recollection of talking to this man. He also associates some kind of an accent with this person, perhaps a German one. This person was described by BLACK as being smaller than average in height, and as being of average build and weight for his height. BLACK also said that he believed this person to be of dark complexion, with dark hair and a tendency towards baldness. He had no knowledge that the person he met was a doctor or that he was married. BLACK also advised that he associated the name KREBS with the photograph.

PH 65-4332

He stated that the name FROCHT meant absolutely nothing to him. The time of this party as nearly as BLACK could place it, was shortly after BLACK became a Communist Party member. It will be recalled that BLACK was issued a Communist Party book bearing #6878 in 1933 showing that he was admitted to the Communist Party in 1932.

FREDERICK LESLIE SHUNAMAN
January 10, 1952

YETTA SHUNAMAN
January 10, 1952

MARTIN YOUNG
January 10, 1952

VALENTINE MEXLER
January 10, 1952

MAX GRANICH
January 10, 1952

GRACE GRANICH
January 10, 1952

ALEXANDER ANDREVICH RAEV
January 10, 1952

In connection with RAEV, BLACK said the face was familiar, but he was uncertain that he had ever met him. It was pointed out to BLACK that he had originally tentatively identified this person as someone who had contacted him in 1939. BLACK at this time was not certain that he had met RAEV on more than one occasion and then only briefly. The possibility that RAEV might have acted as an alternate for Soviet contacts later than 1939 was also discussed. BLACK stated he was positive that if he met RAEV at all, it was prior to 1940. It was pointed out to BLACK that no record of RAEV's entry into the United States could be located for the pertinent period, but one for a later period was found. BLACK again stated he was sure that if he had met RAEV it was in 1939.

THOMAS ALBION JACKSON
January 10, 1952

BLACK said that name and face were familiar, although he could not exactly say where he might have seen or

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

PH 65-4332

met THOMAS ALBION JACKSON. He stated he might possibly have met this person in New York City in the early 1930's. BLACK said before he became a Communist Party member he consorted with various left wing groups. One of these groups bore the name Technical Union or some name similar to that. It was BLACK's recollection this group was the forerunner of the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians. It was in the Technical Union that BLACK believes he might have seen or met this THOMAS JACKSON.

— P E N D I N G —

- 5 -

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

PH 55-4332

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

A copy of this report was not furnished to the United States Attorney at Philadelphia, as the report contains nothing of pertinence as far as the United States Attorney's Office is concerned.

LEADS

PHILADELPHIA DIVISION
AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Will maintain contact with the United States Attorney's Office to determine what action will be taken concerning THOMAS L. BLACK.

REFERENCE: Philadelphia letter to the Bureau
dated 1/17/52.

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **PHILADELPHIA**

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT PHILADELPHIA	DATE WHEN MADE 1/30/52	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/26/51; 9/3/51; 10/10/51; 11/23/51; 1/10/52	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT G. JENSEN (dad)
TITLE THOMAS L. BLACK, was			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p style="margin-left: 150px;">THOMAS L. BLACK on 7/26, 9/3, 10/10, 11/23/51 and 1/10/52, was interviewed re various people to determine if he had known them while he was involved in Soviet espionage. BLACK's comments concerning these individuals set out.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P* -</p> <p>DETAILS:</p> <p style="margin-left: 150px;">THOMAS L. BLACK, an admitted Soviet espionage agent, was interviewed concerning the following people on the dates indicated:</p> <p style="margin-left: 150px;">JOSEPH GEORGE BOGORAD July 26, 1951</p> <p style="margin-left: 150px;">JOSEPH FELS BARNES September 3, 1951</p> <p style="margin-left: 150px;">ELIZABETH BARNES September 3, 1951</p> <p style="margin-left: 150px;">LAWRENCE SHANDEL September 3, 1951</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
<p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>5 - Bureau (65-59181) 1 - New York (65-15338)(info) 3 - Philadelphia (65-4332)</p>			

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-62355-1

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)

March 12, 1952

Director, FBI (65-59181)

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

Re Philadelphia letter 1-17-52, which stated that Assistant USA James P. McCormick, who had been handling the Black case, died on January 14, 1952.

Philadelphia advised the Bureau on December 3, 1951, via telephone, that arrangements were being made by the U. S. Attorney's Office to have Black testify before the Federal Grand Jury relative to his espionage activities in connection with Harry Gold and others.

Philadelphia should contact the USA at Philadelphia to determine when Black will be called before the Federal Grand Jury.

As you have previously been advised, the Department has stated that no attempt will be made to procure Black's registration under the Internal Security Act of 1950 until the transcript of his testimony before the Federal Grand Jury has been examined.

EL:rmc

RECORDED - 108

EX - 28

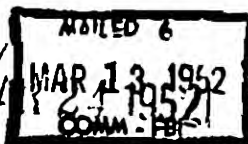
65-59181-327

MAR 20 1952

F B I

RECEIVED READING ROOM

MAR 12 6 52 PM '52



MAILED 6

MAR 13 1952

COMM - FBI

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EL

Serial 326 missing, S.W. 11-21-60 R-47

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

DATE: 3/27/52

Rebulet dated 3/12/52.

AUSA A.L. LUONGO was contacted on 3/27/52 relative to the appearance of THOMAS L. BLACK before a Federal Grand Jury. He advised that he had been recently appointed AUSA and, as such, had received the cases previously assigned the late Mr. MC CORMICK. The case of THOMAS L. BLACK was among many that needed attention. AUSA LUONGO stated the case of THOMAS L. BLACK was somewhat involved and would require some study on his part.

AUSA LUONGO advised that he would notify this office in the near future as to the date when BLACK would be called before a Federal Grand Jury.

RGJ/tgm

RECORDED - 131

65-59181-328

EX-140

MAR 29 1952

34

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BRADYAN (INFO)

51 APR 3 1952

RECEIVED

APR 3 1952

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

[Handwritten signature]
TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)
FROM : SAC, Pittsburgh (65-1502)
SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: April 30, 1952

Rebulet to Pittsburgh, 3/5/52.

For the information of the Bureau and Philadelphia, FRANK LAVERNE PALMER is presently in a constant travel status as a salesman for the publication "Supervision". However, PALMER was recently in contact with the Pittsburgh Office by mail and advised that he would contact Pittsburgh Agents in the near future during his next visit to Pittsburgh.

On April 23, 1952, Mrs. FRANK L. PALMER, nee WINIFRED MOORES, was contacted by SA THOMAS T. WILKINSON. Mrs. PALMER, it is noted, has been married to FRANK PALMER since 1930 and is known to have had contact with at least one of the Soviet principals with whom PALMER was in contact with during the mid 1930's.

During the interview with SA WILKINSON on April 23, Mrs. PALMER advised that she believed she could locate photographs of both herself and her husband which were taken about 1936 and she promised to forward these to the Pittsburgh Office at an early date. As soon as these photographs are received they will be forwarded to Philadelphia together with complete physical descriptions of both Mr. and Mrs. PALMER.

Registered Mail

RDC/jep

cc: Philadelphia (RM)

RECORDED - 162

INDEXED - 162

165-59181-329
17 MAY 2 1952

57 MAY 7 1952

[Handwritten signature]

SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)

May 17, 1952

Director, FBI (65-59181)

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

Reurlet March 27, 1952, reflecting that AUSA
Luongo would notify your office in the near future as to
the date when Black would be called before a Federal Grand
Jury.

Please advise the Bureau regarding the status
of this matter.

EL:mem

RECORDED - 82

EX-141

65-59181-330

MAY 21 1952

62

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FBI

RECEIVED-MAIL ROOM

MAY 15 4 11 PM '52

MAILED 2

MAY 17 1952

COMM - FBI

66 MAY 26 1952

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)
FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)
SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

DATE: 5/28/52

Rebulet 5/17/52.

AUSA A.L. LUONGO was contacted on 5/27/52 relative to the appearance of THOMAS L. BLACK before a Federal Grand Jury. He advised that he hoped to be able to call BLACK before a Grand Jury some time late in 7/52.

RGJ/tgm

RECORDED-113

65-59181-331
JUN 11 1952
25

BRADYAN (INFO)

105 54
66 JUN 6 1952

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JUN 7 5 32 PM '52

ER L. Long

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)

FROM : SAC, Pittsburgh (65-1502)

DATE: May 27, 1952

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

Rebulet to Pittsburgh, copy Philadelphia, 3/5/52. A copy of relet is enclosed herewith for the attention of the New York Office.

On May 21, 1952, ^{MR} Mrs. FRANK L. PALMER, who continues to reside at Pittsburgh, Pa., advised that she and her husband had recently agreed to a separation, and that PALMER evidently intends to make his permanent residence at New York City.

The New York Office is, therefore, requested to make discreet contact with PALMER at his business office, "Supervision, Incorporated," 95 Madison Avenue, New York City, and handle the lead set out in relet.

In the event Mrs. FRANK L. PALMER should in the future locate any suitable photographs of either herself or PALMER, they will be forwarded to Philadelphia. RUC

RDC:rlr
REGISTERED

lcc: Philadelphia REGISTERED
New York (Encl.) REGISTERED
Pittsburgh file 100-8894

RECORDED - 162

INDEXED - 162

EX-140

165-59181-332

13

MAY 29 1952

EHE

36
66 JUN 6 1952

Assistant Attorney General
James M. MoInerney

May 21, 1952

Director, FBI

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

34540

I. R. 3

R1-1

Reference is made to your memorandum dated November 9, 1951, stating that the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania had been requested to summon Black before a Grand Jury for interrogation. Referenced memorandum further reflected that no attempt would be made to procure Black's registration under the Internal Security Act of 1950 until the transcript of his testimony before the Grand Jury was examined.

Our Philadelphia Office has advised that Assistant United States Attorney James McCormick, who had been handling the Black case, died on January 14, 1952.

In order that this case may be brought to a logical conclusion you are requested to advise regarding the status of Black's appearance before the Federal Grand Jury.

EL:men

RECORDED - 7

EX-141

105-59181-333

MAY 22 1952

62

N 2 DEPT OF JUSTICE

MAY 15 1952

RECEIVED DEPT OF JUSTICE

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

MAY 21 1952
COMM - FBI
N 2 DEPT OF JUSTICE
MAY 21 1952

66 JUN 6 1952

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

acj
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59180)
FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)
SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 7/24/52

Rebutel dated 7/18/52, remytel dated 7/15/52, both entitled
Compros—Philadelphia.

As stated in mytel of July 15, Assistant United States Attorney
ALFRED L. LUONGO proposes to summon THOMAS L. BLACK before the grand jury
at Philadelphia sometime in August. After having BLACK tell his story to
the grand jury, he will solicit BLACK's registration as an agent of a
foreign principal.

In accordance with the instructions in the rebutel, the reports
submitted to the United States Attorney in the BLACK case have been checked,
and it has been determined that these reports do not contain material which
is inadmissible per se; accordingly, no additional report will be necessary
in this case, and Assistant United States Attorney LUONGO was so advised
on 7/21/52.

NSH:HF

RECORDED

EX-80

65-59181-335

JUL 25 1952

66 AUG 7 1952

Ligler

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)
FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)
SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 7/31/52

On July 24, 1952, THOMAS L. BLACK was interviewed by SA ROBERT G. JENSEN at the Philadelphia office of the FBI. During the course of the interview BLACK mentioned the article entitled, "Red Spy Masters in America," by J. EDGAR HOOVER, appearing in the August 1952 issue of the "Readers Digest." BLACK said he was somewhat apprehensive for his personal safety as a result of this article. He stated that it was rather clear much of the article applied to him by inference.

BLACK indicated that it would be apparent to the Russians as they read this article that he, BLACK, had been talking to the FBI. He related that in general much of the article can well apply to any former Soviet agent but certain specifications such as the enrollment in a western technical school and the unemployment insurance of \$100 a month applied to him. He said the Russians would also realize this. It was because of this, he felt that a representative of the Soviet would come to see him and seek to learn what he had told. He stated he was afraid reprisals of some sort might be taken because of his cooperation with the FBI. B

COPIES DESTROYED

R 47 NOV 21 1960

It was pointed out to BLACK that his story of involvement in Soviet espionage as he told it, dealt with an unwilling agent who furnished nothing of great value and much in the way of self-prepared and fake reports. On the basis of his story as he told it, it would not appear that he had been of much value or of any consequence to the Soviets. According, the Soviets would probably have little or no interest in him or his story unless there was something else BLACK had forgotten or neglected to tell about his espionage career. BLACK insisted that he had told the entire truth about his involvement in Soviet espionage, and he had withheld no information from the FBI. It was also pointed out to BLACK the possibility or probability of predicting the behavior of the Soviets in reaction to the above mentioned article could be done only by the Soviets themselves.

RJG/nch

RECORDED - 44

65-59181-336

EX - 73

BRANVARD (INT)

STUKER (INT)

62 SEP 10 1952

PH 65-4332
Director, FBI

7/31/52

Of course, no advice was given to BLACK as to what procedure he should follow in the event of a contact by the Soviets. BLACK said he believed that in all probability no reprisals would be made against him by the Soviets, but he did want to make his feelings known in this matter.

He stated he would use his own judgment in the event of a recontact by the Soviets which he believed strongly would come. He stated he would stall the initial contact if at all possible and make an appointment for a later date. In the interim BLACK said he would notify the FBI of this contact. He said he have no hesitancy in becoming involved in the espionage even if the FBI were cognizant of his activities. BLACK indicated he would like to atone for his past activities and assist his country in the future if it were possible for him to do so.

In view of the impending Grand Jury appearance of BLACK in August, no overtures were made to BLACK to reactivate himself. He was, however, told to use his own judgment in the event of a recontact but to advise the Philadelphia Office of the FBI immediately. This he agreed to do wholeheartedly.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 7/31/52

Remylet, dated 7/24/52, regarding the prosecutive plans of the United States Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, in this case.

On 7/30/52, Assistant United States Attorney ALFRED L. LUONGO advised he has spoken by telephone with Mr. JAMES J. CANAVAN of the Department and has arranged for a discussion of this and other cases in Philadelphia on 8/18/52.

KSH/nac

RECORDED - 79
EX-28

RECORDED - 79

65-59181-336X

~~65-59181-336X~~

AUG 5 1952

EL
EL

G.I.R.

242
60 AUG 11 1952

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. BELMONT
FROM : W. A. BRANIGAN *WAB*
SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: August 20, 1952

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

PURPOSE:

To advise that Black has expressed concern that reprisals may be taken against him by the Soviets as a result of the article "Red Spy Masters in America," which appeared in the August, 1952, issue of "Readers Digest" magazine.

BACKGROUND:

You will recall that Black is a confessed Soviet espionage agent who was active in the United States from 1934 to 1947 and was the person who introduced Harry Gold into Soviet espionage activity. The Criminal Division of the Department and the USA at Philadelphia have advised that Black will be called before the Federal Grand Jury in August, 1952, after which he will be requested to register under the Internal Security Act of 1950.

On July 24, 1952, Black, in conversation with Philadelphia agents, mentioned the article "Red Spy Masters in America," appearing in the August, 1952, issue of "Readers Digest" magazine. Black stated that it was clear that much of the article applied to him by inference, and Black indicated that it would be apparent to the Russians if they read the article, that he, Black, has been talking to the FBI. He related that in general much of the article can well apply to any former Soviet agent, but certain specifications such as the enrollment in a western technical school and the unemployment insurance of \$100 a month applied to him. It was because of this that he felt that a representative of the Soviets would come to see him and seek to learn what he had told. He stated he was afraid reprisals of some sort may be taken because of his cooperation with the FBI.

65-59181

EL:mem

EX-25
RECORDED - 119

65-59181-337
AUG 26 1952

104
SEP 10 1952

It is true that Black is referred to by inference in the above referred to article. In view of Black's long service for the Soviets, and further, since it was necessary for the Bureau to seek out Black and interview him before he confessed, it is not believed that we need be concerned about any alleged fears of reprisals on the part of Black. Black has always maintained that he was not an important Soviet agent and that he did not give the Soviets any valuable information. This has been pointed out to Black and he has been reminded that if he has told us the truth about his importance, he should have nothing to worry about.

Black has stated that if he is contacted by the Soviets he will advise the Bureau immediately.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. The above is for your information.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)
FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)
SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 9/2/52

On 8/25/52, AUSA ALFRED LUONGO, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, advised Field Supervisor MORRIS S. HARZENSTEIN that it was planned that the subject would be subpoenaed to appear before Federal Grand Jury (date not set). The AUSA requested, and was furnished, the subject's current residential address.

On 8/29/52, AUSA LUONGO advised SA HOWARD A. SEARL that approval of the necessary funds for payment of the Grand Jury had been received from the department, and that the jury would be seated in the third or fourth week of September.

The Bureau will be advised of current developments.

HAS:jaw

REG MAIL

RECORDED - 134

EX-32

65-59181-338

SEP 3 1952

SEP 2 5 52 PM '52

51 SEP 10 1952

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Rear

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59180)
FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-⁴³³²~~3432~~)
SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 10/13/52

On 10/10/52 Mr. ALFRED E. LUONGO, AUSA, EDPA, advised that the subject had appeared before a Federal Grand Jury on 10/2,3 and 9/52.

Mr. LUONGO advised that BLACK had been cooperative and had answered all questions and that prior to making a decision as to whether or not there would be future prosecution against BLACK, Mr. LUONGO stated that he desired to review the testimony given before this body.

Bureau will be advised.

MCC/tgm

REC. MAIL

0-1 PHILA 11-24-52 - el letter submitted
Phila advise 12/2/52
11/26/52 memo
BANKER (INFO)
BANKER (INFO)

Trans to Phila.
10-29-52
E.L. (ccw)

RECORDED - 82
EX-153

65-59181-339

OCT 15 1952

FILE

L. J. BERG

SAC, Philadelphia (65-4392)

October 29, 1952

RECORDED-33

Director, FBI (65-59181) 339

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

EX-130

Reference is made to Philadelphia letter dated 10-19-52 which stated that Black had appeared before the Federal Grand Jury at Philadelphia on October 2, 3, and 9, 1952.

Philadelphia should make arrangements with the U. S. Attorney's office to review the testimony of Black in order to ascertain if there is any information therein which Black has not previously given to the Bureau.

EL:cem *(signature)*

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FBI
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OCT 30 1952

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COMM — FBI

OCT 30 1952

MAILED 27

63 NOV 5 1952

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

DATE: November 4, 1952

FROM : SAC, PITTSBURGH (65-1502)

REGISTERED MAIL

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
(Origin - Philadelphia)

Rebulet, March 5, 1952, and mylet, May 27, 1952.

Referenced Bureau letter instructed that a photograph and description of FRANK LAVERNE PALMER, who broke with GAIK OVAKIMIAN in 1938, be furnished to the Philadelphia Division in order that THOMAS L. BLACK, who is known to have worked for OVAKIMIAN, be interviewed to determine if PALMER may have been one of the unknown subjects who was in contact with BLACK.

Remylet setting forth that at that time a photograph of PALMER had not been obtained.

On October 10, 1952, MRS. WINIFRED M. PALMER, 320 Broughton Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, estranged wife of FRANK LAVERNE PALMER, furnished two photographs of herself taken approximately 1937 and 1949 and two photographs of FRANK LAVERNE PALMER taken approximately 1937 and 1951. A copy of each photograph is being furnished the Philadelphia Office for use in captioned case.

For assistance of Philadelphia Office if BLACK is interviewed concerning FRANK PALMER, the following is pertinent information concerning FRANK and WINIFRED PALMER's contact with GAIK OVAKIMIAN as has been furnished by the PALMERS: PA

In the fall of 1935 FRANK PALMER was introduced to OVAKIMIAN by an unknown girl in New York City. OVAKIMIAN at subsequent meetings expressed an interest in Trotskyites and autogiros.

MJR:EIE

cc - 1 - New York (RM)
2 - Philadelphia (Encls.) (4) (RM)
1 - 100-8894
1 - 65-1523

COPIES DESTROYED
R 47 NOV 21 1960

RECORDED

EX-130 21

NOV 7 1952

INDEXED - 31

58 NOV 14 1952

165-59181-340

FILE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

RE: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

In the fall of 1937 and again on December 25, 1937, the PALMERS met socially with OVAKIMIAN in Chicago, Illinois.

In May, 1938, OVAKIMIAN requested PALMER to steal the Trotskyites' membership list from the secretary's office in Chicago, however, PALMER refused to comply and as a result he and OVAKIMIAN discontinued their association.

~~LAVERNE PALMER:~~ The following is a description of FRANK
11/11/63 126

Race	White
Age	58
Born	December 9, 1893 at Corning, New York
Height	5'7"
Weight	200 lbs. (1952); 180 lbs. (1935)
Hair	Bald, graying (1952); black and bald in crown (1935)
Eyes	Hazel
Complexion	Dark

~~M. PALMER:~~ The following is a description of WINIFRED

Race	White
Age	48
Born	June 27, 1904, Binghamton, New York
Height	5'5"
Weight	142 (1952); 127 (1935)
Hair	Brown with gray (1952) Brown (1935)
Eyes	Green
Complexion	Fair

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

RE: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

It is noted that FRANK and WINIFRED PALMER were married in 1930 and separated in April, 1952.

It is suggested that if THOMAS L. BLACK is interviewed concerning FRANK L. PALMER that he also be questioned concerning WINIFRED M. PALMER and pertinent information furnished to Pittsburgh Office for Pittsburgh file #65-1523. RUC.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)
FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)
SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 11/26/52

34540

Rebulet to Philadelphia 10/29/52.

On 11/25/52 Mr. ALFRED E. LUONGO, AUSA, EDPA, advised that he has not yet thoroughly reviewed the testimony given by subject before the Federal Grand Jury on 10/2,3 and 9/52. However, he stated that he felt certain that no prosecutive action will be brought against BLACK with regard to the Federal Espionage Statutes, primarily because BLACK's activities were confined to industrial espionage. He continued that he would thoroughly review BLACK's testimony to ascertain if BLACK violated the Perjury Statute and that he intends to submit a recommendation to the Department as to whether BLACK should or should not be prosecuted under the Perjury Statute.

Arrangements were made with Mr. LUONGO to review BLACK's testimony before the Federal Grand Jury in the near future.

PEG/ejs

REGISTERED MAIL

RECORDED
106

65-59181-341

NOV 28 1952

KIMBERG

SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)

December 10, 1952

Director, FBI (65-59181)-341

RECORDED - 96

EX - 107

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

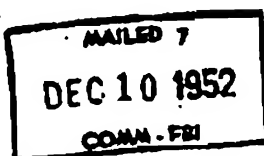
34539

Reference Philadelphia let 11-26-52, stating that the U. S. Attorney at Philadelphia will submit a recommendation to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice as to whether Black should or should not be prosecuted under the perjury statute.

Philadelphia is instructed to advise the Bureau what the grounds for such a perjury violation are.

EL: rmc/vmd

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Laughlin _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____



385
63 DEC 12 1952

4 R 7

EL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)

DATE: 12/4/52

FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was
ESPIONAGE - R

Re Pittsburgh letter 11/4/52.

The photographs taken in 1937 and 1951 of FRANK LAVERNE PALMER and the 1937 and 1949 photographs of WINIFRED PALMER were exhibited to THOMAS L. BLACK, an admitted Soviet Agent, by SA CHARLES P. SILVERTHORN on 11/25/52, with negative results. BLACK was questioned regarding the name, background and description of the above individuals; however, he advised that he was unfamiliar with them.

CPS:DAD
REGISTERED MAIL

cc: 1-Pittsburgh (100-8894) Registered Mail
1-Pittsburgh (65-1523) Registered Mail

RECORDED - 70
EX-112

165-59181-342

DEC 5 1952

18

GLE

LIT

79 DEC 11 1952

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)
FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)
SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
ORIGIN - PHILADELPHIA

DATE: 1/16/53

Rebulet 12/10/52 and Philadelphia letter to Bureau 11/26/52.

As pointed out in Philadelphia letter, AUSA ALFRED L. LUONGO has advised that he has no grounds for a perjury violation concerning BLACK pending his review of BLACK's testimony before the Federal Grand Jury. It is his intention of sifting through BLACK's testimony to ascertain if any contradictory statements by BLACK appear therein. The basis for a recommendation that BLACK be prosecuted under the perjury statute will be based on any such contradictory statement. In the absence of any contradictory statement, a recommendation that BLACK not be prosecuted under the perjury statute will be submitted, based on such a finding.

PBG:JMB

RECORDED - 65

JAN 19 1953

164
67 FEB 10 1953

cc - Mr. Belmont

Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

January 30, 1953

RECORDED

Director, FBI

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

Reference is made to the memorandum from the Criminal Division dated January 19, 1953, transmitting a copy of the transcript of the testimony of Subject Thomas L. Black before the Federal Grand Jury for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, October 23, 3, and 9, 1952. The Criminal Division requested that the transcript be returned after it had been reviewed by the Bureau.

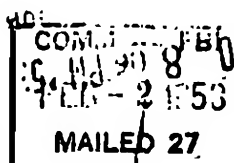
The transcript has been reviewed, and no information contained therein was found to be materially different from that previously furnished by Black to agents of our Philadelphia Division.

The transcript is being returned herewith.

Attachment

65-59181

KFL:amb

DECLASSIFIED BY 4913
ON 2/5/78 AP/159~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

67 FEB 10 1953

FL

SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)

January 26, 1953

Director, FBI (65-59181) — 344

RECORDED - 6

THOMAS L. BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

ReBulet 10-29-52, instructing the Philadelphia Division to make arrangements with the United States Attorney's Office to review the Grand Jury testimony of Black in order to ascertain if there is any information therein which Black has not previously given to the Bureau.

There is attached hereto for the information of the Philadelphia Office a copy of a letter from the Criminal Division of the Department, dated January 19, 1953, reflecting that the Criminal Division will solicit the registration of Black under terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act as amended by Section 20(a) of the Internal Security Act of 1950.

Since the Criminal Division forwarded the minutes of the Grand Jury proceedings to the Bureau for review, it will not be necessary for the Philadelphia Division to obtain same from the USA's Office in Philadelphia.

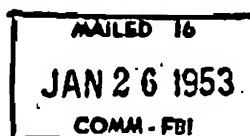
The Philadelphia Office should recontact the USA's Office for an opinion in this case.

The Philadelphia Office will be advised when Black's registration has been effected. Philadelphia will also be advised of any new information furnished by Black in his testimony before the Federal Grand Jury at Philadelphia on October 2, 3, and 9, 1952.

Enclosure

EL:men

JAN 26 2 21 PM '53



2 DEPT OF JUSTICE
FBI
RECEIVED - NEW YORK

W. H. [unclear]
EL

March 4, 1953

To : Supervisors Handling Criminal Violations
From : Mr. Rosen
Subject : DELAYS ON THE PART OF UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

7/1
Thomas L. C. B. 1/1
SAC Letter #53-13 dated February 10, 1953, instructed all field offices to review pending cases in all classifications in order to locate instances where the office of the United States Attorney has delayed in rendering a prosecutive opinion or where prosecutive action has been delayed subsequent to indictment, issuance of an information or complaint. Separate sheets were to be prepared for each classification and the following information furnished:

Complete title and character of case
Bureau file number if known
A brief resume of the delay on the part of the United States Attorney's office, and
The reason for the delay, if known.

An original and three copies of each sheet were to be prepared.

Together with a copy of this memorandum each desk handling criminal violations is being furnished three copies of memoranda prepared by the field covering the classifications it handles. The original will be filed in the main 62- file maintained by the Bureau on the subject of "Relations With the United States Attorney's Office in Each District." Each desk should review the cases referred to in the memoranda and take such action as is necessary to bring the case to a logical conclusion at the earliest possible date. This will require writing to the Department in all instances where the delays on the part of the United States Attorney do not appear justified and consideration should be given to writing the Department in those cases where delays are apparent even though explained by reasons beyond the control of the United States Attorney. The field should be furnished with copies of any letters to the Department and all cases should be followed closely until closed. //

The action taken should be noted on a copy of the memorandum from the field which is to be routed to the file of the substantive case. A copy of the field memorandum may be retained as a tickler if not needed for filing purposes.

165-59181-1
NOT RECORDED
128 APR 17 1953

65-59181-NR

5-40

Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

April 7, 1953

Director, FBI

THOMAS L. BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

Reference is made to memorandum from former Assistant Attorney General Charles B. Murray, reference CBM:WEP:RBQ:jkg 146-51-15-1316, which reflected that the registration of subject Thomas L. Black would be solicited under terms of Section 20(a) of the Internal Security Act of 1950.

Our Philadelphia Office advised on January 16, 1953, that Assistant United States Attorney Alfred L. Luongo of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania is reviewing the transcript of Black's testimony before the Federal Grand Jury on October 2, 3, and 9, 1952, to determine if there are any statements of perjury therein.

Since the Black case has been under consideration for a number of years, it would be appreciated if you would advise us as to the status of Black's registration under the Internal Security Act of 1950, as well as any prosecutive action you contemplate for violation of any Federal statutes.

65-59181

cc - 2 - Philadelphia (65-4332)

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R 47 NOV 21 1960

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165-59181-3

APR 10 1953

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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PHILADELPHIA

ESPIONAGE

THOMAS L. BLACK, was
ESPIONAGE - R
PH file 65-4332
Bufile 65-59181

11/10/50 Case referred to U.S. Attorney, Philadelphia, by Department for prosecutive opinion.

3/5/51 AUSA MC CORMICK stated evidence insufficient to sustain conviction under Espionage or Misprision of Felony statutes.

4/30/51 MC INERNEY, AAG, Crim. Division, stated case came under Registration Act, requested all information be furnished U. S. Attorney, Philadelphia, to assist in questioning BLACK at Grand Jury hearing.

10/8/51 AUSA MC CORMICK advised BLACK would be called before Grand Jury in Nov. 1951.

11/19/51 AUSA MC CORMICK said BLACK would appear in Dec. 1951.

1/14/52 AUSA MC CORMICK died.

3/27/52 AUSA LUONGO said case just assigned him, would require study.

5/27/52 AUSA LUONGO said BLACK would be called before Grand Jury in July 1952.

7/15/52 AUSA LUONGO said BLACK would be called before Grand Jury in August 1952 at which time, after BLACK's testimony, he would solicit BLACK's registration under Registration Act.

7/30/52 AUSA LUONGO stated would discuss case with Mr. CANAVAN of Department at Phila. on 8/18/52.

10/3/52 BLACK appeared before Federal Grand Jury. AUSA LUONGO said he desired to review BLACK's testimony before making decision re prosecution.

11/25/52 AUSA LUONGO said he had not completely reviewed BLACK's testimony. Felt BLACK could not be prosecuted for Espionage, but planned to review his testimony for possible perjury violation.

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R 47 NOV 21 1960

2/19/53

AUSA LUONGO has not furnished opinion as of this date.

NOT RECORDED

128 APR 17 1953

LINDA

5-88

65-59181-NR

APR 21 1953
CRIMINAL
PHILA
4-7-53

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)
FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)
SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 4/21/53

Rebulet dated 1/30/53.

Pursuant to Bureau instructions in referenced letter, THOMAS L. BLACK was advised that any public disclosure on his part of the identity of his Soviet espionage superior "JACK" as JOSEPH L. BARTZ might impair future espionage investigations conducted by the FBI. BLACK stated that he would, of course, in the future refrain from making any statements relative to "JACK's" identity.

In regard to BLACK's testimony before the Federal Grand Jury at Philadelphia to the effect that he had identified his Soviet espionage contact "JOHN" from pictures in FBI files, BLACK stated that he believed that he had identified "JOHN" from pictures shown to him by SAs HOLMES and WELTE. However, he said that he might not have stated to the agents that "This is JOHN" but that in his own mind he felt that he had seen a photograph of "JOHN."

A review of Unsub, wa. JOHN; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant, Espionage -R, (Bufile 65-59452, PH file 65-4377) reflected that BLACK had never identified "JOHN" from the photographs shown him in instant matter.

SA ROBERT W. HOLMES, who was handling BLACK during this period, advised that BLACK had never identified "JOHN" either from photographs or descriptions of possible suspects for "JOHN."

BLACK advised that due to the elapsed time he possibly is confused as to having identified "JOHN", and concluded that if he had identified "JOHN" from photographs or descriptions there would have been no reason for his not having positively made this identification to agents at the time.

Relative to BLACK's registration under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, as amended by Section 20 (a) of the Internal Security Act of 1950, he volunteered that he had received these registration forms from the Department of Justice dated 2/9/52, and had executed same approximately 2/17/53.

No further action is being taken by the Philadelphia Office, and the Bureau is requested to advise Philadelphia of the Department's decision relative to prosecutive action contemplated for violation of any Federal statutes.

MCC/ejs

REGISTERED MAIL

cc: PH 65-4377

79 MAY 5 - 1953

RECORDED - 47

INDEXED - 47

EX - 1A

APR 22 1953

65-59181-347

4-2-53

SAC, Philadelphia (65-4992)

April 27, 1953

Director, FBI (65-59181)

RECORDED

65-59181-348

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.

ESPIONAGE - R

INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

101-1

ReBulet to Philadelphia 1-30-53, and Bulet to Assistant Attorney General Warren Olney III, 4-7-53, a carbon copy of which was designated for the Philadelphia Division.

It is noted that Black testified before the Federal grand jury in Philadelphia in October, 1952. Philadelphia letter of 1-16-53, reflected that AUSA Alfred L. Luongo desired to sift through Black's testimony before the Federal grand jury for a possible perjury violation. As Philadelphia is aware the Black case has been pending for several years. The Bureau desires that this case be brought to a conclusion without further delay. The U.S. Attorney at Philadelphia should be contacted and you should bring to his attention the long delay in this case. You should determine from him as to when he contemplates arriving at an opinion in this case. You should advise the Bureau immediately as to the U.S. Attorney's comments in order that the Criminal Division of the Department may be followed closely.

There is attached hereto a copy of a letter from the Criminal Division dated 4-10-53, reflecting that Black registered on February 24, 1953, under terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended by Section 20 (a) of the Internal Security Act of 1950.

Two copies of the Bureau's memorandum to the Criminal Division regarding Black's registration statement is attached for the information of the Philadelphia Division.

Attachment

EFL:mpp

G.I.R. 3

APR 30 1953

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APR 28 1953
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Holloman
Gandy

62 MAY 13 1953

Handwritten signatures and initials: JMM, WAB, EL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)

DATE: 5/14/53

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

Rebulet 4/27/53.

Due to the changing personnel in the U.S. Attorney's Office, this case is now being handled by AUSA MORTON FINE, Philadelphia, Pa. AUSA FINE was contacted on 5/13/53, and advised that BLACK's case had recently been reassigned to him. He has been unable to completely familiarize himself with the case in order to furnish a prosecutive opinion. *no*

The long delay in this case was brought to the attention of AUSA FINE.

AUSA FINE requested that this office recontact him on 6/15/53, at which time he will furnish a prosecutive opinion.

PBG:cam

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REC-56

SAC, Philadelphia (65-4332)

May 28, 1953

RECORDED - 71

Director, FBI (65-59181)-350

THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

Re Philadelphia letter 5-14-53, reflecting that the Black case is now being handled by AUSA Morton Fine, in view of the condition of changing personnel which exists at the U. S. Attorney's office in Philadelphia. Reflet reflects that AUSA Fine requested that the Philadelphia Division contact him June 15, 1953, at which time he will furnish a prosecutive opinion.

There is attached for the information of the Philadelphia Division a copy of a memorandum from the Criminal Division dated May 20, 1953. This memorandum reflects that the Criminal Division of the Department contemplates no prosecutive action against Black for the violation of any Federal Statutes, and that Black's registration statement is being withheld from public examination.

Philadelphia should immediately contact AUSA Fine and call to his attention the attached memorandum from the Criminal Division. You should determine if Fine desires to consider this matter further.

The Bureau expects the Philadelphia Division to keep in close contact with AUSA Fine in order that a final opinion may be obtained from him and this case be brought to a logical conclusion at the earliest possible moment.

Attachment

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FBI - PHILADELPHIA

Handwritten initials and signatures, including "W/2" and "E".

DIRECTOR, FBI (116-349212)

10-22-53

SAC, SEATTLE (116-new)

JOHN JOSEPH DOWNING, HA
AEA - E; CINRAD.

Re Seattle letter dated 7/16/53 captioned "THOMAS L. BLACK, was., ESPIONAGE - R; ESPIONAGE - MISPRISION OF FELONY" (Bureau File 65-59181).

Briefly, the Seattle interest in both the captioned and the BLACK case is that DOWNING, an employee at the Hanford Operations Office, is an associate of subject BLACK, an admitted Soviet Espionage Agent. There is no indication that DOWNING was aware of BLACK's espionage activities; however, the BLACK case has been maintained in a pending status in the Seattle Office to report the results of action taken by the AEC in determining the security clearance of employee DOWNING. Information has just been received that the Personnel Security Branch of the AEC, Washington, D. C., on 10/2/53, concurred in the recommendation of the local Personnel Security Board at the Hanford Operations Office to reaffirm the employee's security clearance.

The Seattle Office will continue to follow DOWNING's status each six months under the above captioned, and the Philadelphia and Newark Offices will be immediately advised of any pertinent developments in connection with the BLACK case.

It is suggested that the Bureau may desire to request this office to submit a Cinrad letter concerning DOWNING.

UACB Seattle File 65-3091 (Bureau File 65-59181) captioned "THOMAS L. BLACK, Espionage - R" will be placed in an RUC status.

WMF:EP
AIRMAIL

CC: 2-Bureau (65-59181)
2-Philadelphia (65-4332 & 116-31693)
2-Newark (65-4074 & 116-29713)
SE File 65-3095

65-59181-
NOT RECORDED
162 NOV 18 1953

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

PHILADELPHIA

REPORT MADE AT PHILADELPHIA	DATE WHEN MADE 6/8/53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/4/53	REPORT MADE BY PAUL B. GIBSON (PKR)
TITLE THOMAS L. BLACK, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

MORTON FINE, AUSA, EDPa., stated evidence insufficient to sustain conviction under Perjury, Misprison of Felony, and Espionage Statutes, and that he contemplates no further action concerning subject.

- C -

DETAILS:

At Philadelphia, Pa.

On June 4, 1953, Mr. MORTON FINE, Assistant United States Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, advised that after a careful review of all material relating to the subject, he is of the opinion that evidence was insufficient to sustain a conviction under the Perjury, Misprison of Felony, and Espionage Statutes, and that for this reason he contemplates no further action regarding BLACK.

- C -

*6/19/53
closing memo
with the original
cc to RAB
6-19-53
new York*

ON SECURITY INDEX - EQ

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R47 NOV 21 1960

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: COPY IN FILE	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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62 JUL 1 1953 *FBI*

PH 65-4332

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: Philadelphia letter to Bureau dated
May 14, 1953.
Bureau letter to Philadelphia dated
May 28, 1953.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

PHILADELPHIA

REPORT MADE AT PHILADELPHIA	DATE WHEN MADE 6/8/53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/4/53	REPORT MADE BY PAUL B. GIBSON (PKR)
TITLE THOMAS L. BLACK, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

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- C -

DETAILS:

At Philadelphia, Pa.

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- C -

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BET:AS
65-4074

NEWARK

6/18/53

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

AIR TEL

DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181) SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332) SAC, SEATTLE

THOMAS L. BLACK, WAS. ESPIONAGE-R; ESPIONAGE-MISPRISON OF FELONY. WALTER

DI SALVO, 237 PROSPECT AVE., NORTH ARLINGTON, NJ, SENIOR CHEMICAL ENGINEER AT

COLGATE PALMOLIVE PEET CO., JERSEY CITY, NJ AND FORMER EMPLOYEE OF NOPCO CHEMICAL CO., HARRISON, NJ FROM 2/6/41 TO 4/1/53. INTERVIEWED 6/17/53 AT HIS REQUEST.

DI SALVO FURNISHED A LETTER POSTMARKED 6/13/53 AT RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, ADDRESSED TO HIM AT NOPCO FROM ONE, JOHN J. DOWNING, BEARING RETURN ADDRESS OF 411 COTTONWOOD DRIVE, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, DATED 6/13/53. ENVELOPE MARKED "PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL" AND LETTER STATES AS FOLLOWS: "DEAR WALTER: I AM CURRENTLY BEING ASKED TO EXPLAIN MY ASSOCIATION WITH THOMAS BLACK, WHO, OUR SECURITY DIVISION, STATES HAS ADMITTED INVOLVEMENT WITH AN ATOMIC ESPIONAGE RING. AS YOU KNOW, I SUBLET BLACK'S APARTMENT FOR A SHORT PERIOD IN 1946 AND HE TOLD ME THAT ON MY DEPARTURE, HE WAS SUBLETTING IT TO YOU. I FEEL SURE THAT YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH BLACK WAS AS INNOCENT AS MINE WAS, AND I REQUEST THAT YOU GIVE ME A STATEMENT, PREFERABLY NOTARIZED, TO THE EFFECT THAT YOU SUBLET THE APARTMENT AND HAD OTHER CONTACTS WITH HIM WITHOUT BEING AWARE OF ANY DISLOYAL ACTS OR ATTITUDES ON HIS PART. I AM ASKING OTHERS IN NOPCO WHO ALSO KNEW BLACK WITHOUT BEING AWARE OF HIS SECRET LEFT TO FURNISH ME SIMILAR STATEMENTS. SINCERELY, JOHN J. DOWNING." DI SALVO DENIES EVER SUBLETTING BLACK'S APARTMENT. KNEW BLACK CASUALLY AS FELLOW EMPLOYEE FROM APPROXIMATELY 1941 TO 1944, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE EMPLOYED IN DIFFERENT BUILDINGS AT NOPCO. VISITED BLACK'S APARTMENT IN NEWARK ON ONE OCCASION, PURELY SOCIAL IN NATURE. NEVER SUSPECTED BLACK DISLOYAL OR INVOLVED IN ESPIONAGE. DI SALVO

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Gearty _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Gandy _____

REGISTERED 2411953
63 JUN 19 1953

Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED - 15 65-59181-353

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Per _____

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

PAGE TWO

CLAIMS HE KNEW DOWNING EVEN LESS THAN BLACK AND IS SURPRISED DOWNING WOULD REMEMBER HIM. RECALLS ONLY ONE BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH DOWNING AT NOPCO. WORKED WITH DOWNING IN SAME DEPARTMENT FOR ONLY 3 OR 4 MONTHS AFTER WHICH DOWNING TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER DEPARTMENT AND THEY HAD NO FURTHER CONTACT. DI SALVO LEARNED ABOUT SIX OTHER NOPCO EMPLOYEES RECEIVED SIMILAR LETTERS FROM DOWNING AND ARE APPARENTLY IGNORING THEM. DI SALVO UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY BLACK TOLD DOWNING HE WAS SUBLETTING HIS APARTMENT TO DI SALVO AS LATER HE HAD NO SUCH ARRANGEMENT WITH BLACK. DI SALVO WROTE DOWNING ADVISING HE WAS MISINFORMED AND THAT DI SALVO COULD NOT FURNISH REQUESTED STATEMENT. DI SALVO KNEW OF NOTHING DEROGATORY CONCERNING DOWNING'S LOYALTY, CHARACTER OR ASSOCIATES. DOWNING'S LETTER BEING RETAINED NEWARK FILES. ABOVE FOR INFO BUREAU AND SEATTLE IN EVENT DOWNING PRESENTLY INVOLVED IN LOYALTY HEARING OR HAS ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED DATA. COPY TO PHILADELPHIA FOR INFO SINCE THEY ARE ORIGIN THIS MATTER. LETTER WILL FOLLOW SETTING OUT INTERVIEW IN FULL. NEWARK FILES REFLECT JOHN DOWNING WAS FELLOW EMPLOYEE OF BLACK AT NOPCO, WHO TOGETHER WITH HIS MOTHER, OCCUPIED BLACK'S NEWARK APARTMENT AT ONE TIME. DOWNING LATER LEFT NOPCO AND SECURED EMPLOYMENT AT CRESTA BLANCA WINERY IN CALIFORNIA.

HOSTETTER

END

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)

DATE: 6/29/53

FROM : SAC, Newark (65-4074)

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R,
MISPRISON OF ESPIONAGE

Reference is made to Newark air-tel 6/18/53.

There is being set out below full details of the interview with
WALTER A. DI SALVO.

On 6/16/53 WALTER A. DI SALVO, 237 Prospect Ave., North Arlington, N.J., telephonically contacted the Newark Office and requested that an agent contact him in regard to a matter pertaining to TOM BLACK.

DI SALVO was interviewed at his residence 6/17/53 by SA BLAKE E. TURNER. He stated he is presently employed as a Senior Chemical Engineer at the Colegate Palmolive Peet Co., 105 Hudson St., Jersey City, N.J. He said he was formerly employed from 2/6/41 to 4/1/53 as a Chemical Engineer in Charge of the Pilot Laboratory at the Nopco Chemical Co., Harrison, N.J.

DI SALVO stated he had just received a letter from one JOHN J. DOWNING, whom he knew to be a former Nopco employee, in which DOWNING requested DI SALVO to furnish an affidavit explaining the nature of his association as a fellow employee with TOM BLACK, who according to the letter, had admitted involvement in an atomic espionage ring.

DI SALVO then presented instant letter to the agent, together with the envelope in which it came. The envelope was postmarked at Richland, Wash., 6/13/53, was addressed to DI SALVO at the Nopco Chemical Co., was marked "Personal and Confidential" and the letter itself was signed "JOHN J. DOWNING."

The letter reads as follows:

COPIES DESTROYED

R.47 NOV 21 1960

"Mr. Walter DiSalvo
Nopco Chemical Co.
Harrison, N.J.

"411 Cottonwood Dr.
Richland, Washington
June 13, 1953

"Dear Walter:

"I am currently being asked to explain my association with THOMAS BLACK, who, our Security Division states had admitted involvement with an atomic espionage ring.

cc: Philadelphia (65-4332)
Seattle
Newark file 116-29713

RET:JCD

RECORDED
INDEXED-52

65-59181-354

Letter to Director
NK 65-4074

"As you know, I sublet Black's apartment for a short period in 1946 and he told me that on my departure, he was subletting it to you. I feel sure that your association with Black was as innocent as mine was and I request that you give me a statement, preferably notarized, to the effect that you sublet the apartment and had other contacts with him without being aware of any disloyal acts or attitudes on his part. I am asking others in Nopco who also knew Black without being aware of his secret life to furnish me similar statements.

"Sincerely

"s/ JOHN J. DOWNING."

DI SALVO stated he knew THOMAS BLACK casually as a fellow employee at Nopco from about 1941 to 1944. BLACK was a Chemist who specialized primarily in bacteriology. BLACK also worked in a different building than DI SALVO.

DI SALVO stated he never sublet BLACK'S apartment as indicated in DOWNING'S letter, and further, that he was at a loss to understand why either BLACK or DOWNING would say this, since he had no such arrangements with BLACK at any time.

DI SALVO said he did visit BLACK'S apartment located in the Prudential Apartments on Raymond Boulevard in the Iron Bound Section of Newark on one occasion. This was at BLACK'S invitation and DOWNING was accompanied by another Nopco employee whose name DI SALVO recalls as JOE CAPANOLA (PHONETIC).

DI SALVO said this visit lasted approximately two hours, and that most of the time was taken up by BLACK who engaged in a long tirade of criticism against DI SALVO'S superior, Dr. ROLAND KAPP, Research Director at Nopco.

DI SALVO said this was his only actual association with BLACK with the exception of occasional business contact at the Nopco Plant. He said that at no time while he knew BLACK did he ever suspect or have reason to suspect that BLACK engaged in espionage. He said that prior to the receipt of DOWNING'S letter, he had no knowledge concerning BLACK'S alleged espionage activities.

Letter to Director
NK 65-4074

DI SALVO said he recalled that Dr. KAPP appeared to be a close associate of BLACK and that the latter visited KAPP'S residence, according to other Nopco employees. He also recalled that BLACK was friendly with one LEO MOSCH, Safety Engineer at Nopco. He said that MOSCH apparently corresponded with BLACK since MOSCH was aware of BLACK'S whereabouts and employment after BLACK left Nopco. DI SALVO said he believed that both Dr. KAPP and LEO MOSCH were loyal Americans.

DI SALVO said that one JACK FASS, who worked for Dr. KAPP in the same department as DI SALVO, was also a close associate of TOM BLACK.

DI SALVO said he understood that FASS and BLACK later went into business together in Phila.

DI SALVO also said he heard, but did not know of his own knowledge that BLACK also had a close friend named ERNIE SEGESSMAN.

With respect to JOHN DOWNING, DI SALVO said he knew DOWNING even less than he had known BLACK, and in this respect, he was amazed that DOWNING would even remember him. He said that DOWNING was employed at Nopco when he, DI SALVO, became employed there, but that three or four months later, DOWNING was transferred to another part of the plant, after which time they had no contact whatsoever. DI SALVO could only recall one conversation which he had with DOWNING which pertained to their work, and which lasted only about five minutes. DI SALVO said he understands DOWNING entered the Armed Services while employed at Nopco and that he later returned, although DI SALVO never saw him thereafter.

DI SALVO said he has neither seen nor heard of BLACK since the latter left Nopco, and he has not heard from DOWNING, nor seen him until he received the above letter.

DI SALVO said that he believes DOWNING worked for the most part at Nopco under a CHARLES DRYDEN, now employed by an unknown research institution somewhere in Ohio. He stated he had no knowledge of the loyalty or character of DOWNING, but that he saw nothing which would indicate disloyalty on the part of DOWNING. DI SALVO said he has never corresponded with DOWNING.

Letter to Director
NK 65-4074

DI SALVO stated he learned that about six other employees at Nopco received similar letters from DOWNING requesting affidavits to DOWNING'S character, loyalty and associates. Two of these employees known to DI SALVO were LOUIS ROSENBERG and JACK LEVY. DI SALVO pointed out that his letter, however, was different from the others because of the allegation that he, DI SALVO, had once sublet BLACK'S apartment. He also stated that all of the other recipients of letters from DOWNING actually knew DOWNING by virtue of their business association.

DI SALVO stated he as well as the other Nopco people are ignoring DOWNING'S request and plan to take no action such as submitting the affidavits which DOWNING requested.

DI SALVO further stated that DOWNING'S letter addressed to him was delivered to him by one MARTIN TOBKES, a Nopco employee, inasmuch as the letter was addressed to the Nopco Chemical Co.

Newark files reflect that one JOHN DOWNING was a fellow employee of THOMAS L. BLACK at the Nopco Chemical Co., and that DOWNING, together with his mother, at one time occupied BLACK'S Newark apartment.

DOWNING later left Nopco for employment at the Cresta Blanca Winery in Calif.

JACK PASS and ERNEST SEGESSMAN, mentioned above, have already been identified in this matter.

The above is being furnished for the information of the Bureau, Phila. (office of origin) and Seattle in the event DOWNING is presently involved in a loyalty hearing procedure or has access to classified information. No further action is being taken at Newark.

The above letter to DI SALVO from DOWNING is being retained in the Newark files.

NO ACTION NECESSARY
EE
7-10-53

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181) (116-349212)
FROM : SAC, Seattle (65-3095)
SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R;
ESPIONAGE - MISPRISION OF FELONY

DATE: 7/16/53
AIR MAIL

Reference is made to Newark airtel to the Bureau and Seattle dated June 18, 1953, captioned as above, and Newark airtels June 24 and 25, 1953, captioned "JOHN JOSEPH DOWNING - HA-20515, AEAA".

All references concern the activities of JOHN JOSEPH DOWNING, HA-20515, an employee of the Atomic Energy Commission, Hanford Operations Office, Richland, Washington.

The files of the Security Division, AEC, Richland, Wash., were reviewed concerning DOWNING and discussed with FRANK J. McHALE, Chief Security Division, AEC. Mr. McHALE advised that in view of the serious nature of this case a hearing board had been called to ascertain whether or not DOWNING would continue with his "Q" clearance at the Hanford Works. McHALE also advised he had been transferred from his job and placed in work in construction activities until the adjudication of this case.

The files reflected that on June 25, 1953 in answer to an inquiry from the Security Division as to the implications of removing DOWNING from his employment in the SF Accountability Section of AEC resulted in a reply from the Head of the Operations Division, AEC, DON G. STURGES, giving the following information:

COPIES DESTROYED

47 NOV 21 1960

His memorandum states that DOWNING was employed as the principal technical analyst for the Hanford Operations Office on sources and fissionable material in the accountability program at this site. Memorandum states, "It is his responsibility to analyze all of the plant material, balance reports submitted by the operating contractor to insure that no explainable losses of material are incurred"; also, "to initiate investigative action to determine the source of such abnormal losses and to request appropriate corrective action to minimize or eliminate the losses". STURGES in this memorandum states that the man would be difficult to replace.

The file further revealed that a hearing board had been convened and that a hearing was set for July 7, 1953 and the results of this hearing will be immediately furnished to the FBI.

DJK:js

cc 2 - Philadelphia (65-4332) (116-31693) (AM)
2 - Newark. (65-4074) (116-29713) (AM)

cc: SE files 116-0-2002, 100-13440

RECORDED
INDEXED

65-59181-355

JUL 20 1953

Spec. Intell.

SE 65-3095

It was noted in the exchange of the letters between the management and the subject concerning his hearing that he stated in one letter he first realized the implications of his associations with THOMAS L. BLACK when he read about BLACK in the "Atom Spies" by O. PILAT in November or December 1952. At that time he stated he went to his supervisor and immediately offered to contact the FBI or AEC Security and outline the exact extent of this acquaintanceship. He was told that they did not feel this was necessary until he was asked.

Mr. McHALE on a confidential basis indicated his displeasure with the fact that an emergency "Q" had been granted to DOWNING on September 5, 1952. The Bureau completed their investigation on October 27, 1952 and then were asked for supplemental investigation. This was completed on March 16, 1953, and since that time no decision was ever reached as to whether or not the subject would continue with his clearance, which it is noted he has had since September 5, 1952.

The files of the Seattle Office in instant case regarding THOMAS L. BLACK contain information that BLACK was an informant concerning a Soviet contact who was known to BLACK as "JOHN" under the name of "KARL" or "CARL". The following description of this individual was given by BLACK:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	Early 30's in 1939
Height:	Approximately 5'10"
Weight:	160 lbs.
Build:	Thin, well built
Hair:	Yellow, blond, wavy
Eyes:	Light blue

The description of DOWNING is obtained from his PSQ at the Hanford Operations Office of AEC at Richland is as follows:

Race:	White
Height:	5'11"
Weight:	168 lbs.
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Brown
Marital status:	Married
Born:	April 4, 1915, Newark, N.J.
Social Security Number:	147-05-6400
CWS:	32604363 (1/6/43 - 1/6/46)

SE 65-3095

However, it is noted that BLACK has been interviewed twice about DOWNING and on both occasions has indicated that DOWNING is an entirely loyal American who has never had any contact with any Soviet espionage.

As soon as this office obtains information concerning the results of the hearing board, which has been convened by the AEC concerning DOWNING's continued access to confidential data, the Bureau and interested offices will be notified.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont *AB*

DATE: September 28, 1953

FROM : W. A. Branigan *WAB*SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Gandy _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Sizoo _____
Miss Gandy _____

Thomas Lessing Black was born July 5, 1907, at Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. He has admitted becoming involved with the Soviets in 1934 when he and Ferdinand P. Heller went to Amtorg, New York City, to inquire about seeking employment in Russia. At Amtorg, Black and Heller met Gaik B. Ovakimian, Soviet espionage agent operating in the United States in the 1930's. Black has admitted contacting and sometimes furnishing information to Ovakimian and subsequent Soviet espionage superiors, Paul Petersen, Carl, George (Semen Markovitch Semenov), Dr. Robert Schwartz (Gregori L. Rabinovitch), John, and Jack (Joseph Katz) from 1934 to 1947. The information consisted of industrial secrets of various companies by which Black was employed. Information concerning penicillin and sorbitol (the source of Vitamin C) was passed. None of the information furnished has been determined to have been of a classified nature.

Black has admitted that his Soviet superior, Gregori L. Rabinovitch, in 1938 wanted him to go to Mexico to work his way into the household of Leon Trotsky (one of the founders of the Communist Party, USSR, who was murdered in Mexico in 1940) in order to get complete information regarding the household. Black stated he refused this assignment. Black admitted acting as a courier for his Soviet superior, Joseph Katz, in 1944 or 1945 in that he delivered \$100.00 and a message to William W. Stapler (deceased). Katz advised Black that the Soviets had purchased technical information from Stapler in the past. Stapler was an employee of the Hercules Powder Company, Wilmington, Delaware. Black admitted receiving \$100 from Soviet superior Rabinovitch to defray medical expenses in 1939, and six monthly payments of \$100 each from Soviet superior Katz in the last half of 1944. He also received expense money and various gifts from Soviet contacts. Harry Gold admitted in a signed statement dated June 2, 1950, that he was initiated into Soviet espionage activity by Thomas L. Black, a chemist, in the Spring or Summer of 1935. Black asked Gold if he could get information from the Pennsylvania Sugar Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, relative to processes. Black explained that he, Black, was in contact with a Russian at Amtorg, New York City,

RECORDED-27

65-59181-357
2 SEP 29 1953

52 OCT 1 1953

65-59181

EFL:blb

and that Black had been giving this Russian chemical processes of the National Oil Products Company, his employer. Gold admitted that in the latter part of 1935 he went to New York City with Black where Black introduced him to Paul Smith, who was Gold's first Soviet espionage superior.

Black has registered under terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended by Section 20 (a) of the Internal Security Act of 1950. A Photostat of Exhibit G is on file in the main case file. The Criminal Division of the Department advised by memorandum dated 4-30-51, and again by memorandum dated 5-20-53, that no prosecutive action is contemplated against Black for violation of any Federal statutes. The Criminal Division advised that Black's registration statement is being withheld from public examination in view of the fact that Black has indicated that he will report any contacts by Soviet agents to the FBI.

Full dissemination has been made to the Criminal Division of the Department and to the United States Attorney at Philadelphia. Black is on the Security Index. All see references have been reviewed and all pertinent information is in the main case file. A closing report is in file and it is recommended that this case be closed.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this case be closed.

WAB: EC

Office Memo • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59181)
 FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)
 SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.
 ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 11-5-53

Card U.T.D.

12-3-55

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual.

XX The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME _____

ALIASES _____

NATIVE BORN _____ NATURALIZED _____ ALIEN _____

COMMUNIST _____ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY _____ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE _____

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) _____

TAB FOR DETCOM _____ TAB FOR COMSAB _____ RACE _____ SEX _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) _____

NATURE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS (Specify from Vital Facility List) _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS 530 West Berks Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

FNG:njc

REGISTERED MAIL

65-59181-
NOT RECORDED

6 NOV 6 1953

52 DEC 4 1953

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Security Index Card Canceled

DATE: 5/11/54

Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Gurnea	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-1332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - R
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Cancel SI card

Rebulet 5/28/53 and attachment.

In view of BLACK's continued cooperation with this Division, it is recommended the Security Index maintained on the subject be canceled. BLACK has executed a registration statement, filed pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (as amended), which will not be made public.

To insure complete control of information received from BLACK, a 134 file will be maintained UACB and the subject considered a Confidential Source of the Philadelphia Division re Espionage - R matters. Letter follows.

An indication of BLACK's cooperation is evidenced in the case "NIKOLAI NIKOLAEVICH ERCHOV, WA. JOHN; ESPIONAGE - R" (Bufile 65-59452), in which BLACK on 1/20/54 identified ERCHOV as his temporary Soviet superior during the period 1939-1940.

HAS:JMB
REGISTERED MAIL

cc: ~~71, New (THOMAS LESSING BLACK)~~

HANDLED

MAY 20 8 20 AM '54
FBI STATISTICAL SECTION

DECLASSIFIED BY 4913
ON 2/9/78 - AP/ESJ

OK to cancel 11/24/54

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP
DATE 5/14/54
BY [signature]

RECORDED-42

65-59181-358

EX-104

55 MAY 24 1954

CANCELLED
5-20-54

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

34536

DATE: 5-21-54

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59281)

FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332) ✓

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.
ESPIONAGE - RATTENTION: Identification Division

Re FD-165 dated 10-11-50 in which the Philadelphia Office posted a
 [REDACTED] on subject.

It is desired that the [REDACTED] be cancelled inasmuch as the
 subject is no longer on the Security Index.

FCB:njc

REGISTERED MAIL

RECORDED-99

65-59181-359

MIA 54 11 02 AM '54

EX-122

2 DEPT OF JUSTICE

L E
PHILADELPHIA

12 MAY 24 1954

6/15/54

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

EXP. PROC.

58 JUN 22 1954

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59181)

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (134-New)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.
CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE

DATE: 6/7/54

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Remylet 5/11/54 in case entitled "THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was."
ESPIONAGE - R, INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950."

THOMAS LESSING BLACK was born as TASSO LESSING BLACK at Bloomsburg, Pa., on 7/5/07, the son of ALFRED BRUCE and MARY HELEN BLACK. His mother died in 1910 and his father subsequently remarried in 1919 to Mrs. LOIS BLACK.

BLACK, a white male, obtained his grade and high school education in Bloomsburg, Pa., and subsequently entered the Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa., attending from 1925 through 1929 without graduating because of low grades. He, upon completion of his education at Pennsylvania State College, was employed as a Control Chemist by the American Cyanamid Company, Linden, N. J. He then became employed as a Chemist for the Holbrook Manufacturing Company of New York, N. Y. (1930-1933). He then worked as an Analytical Chemist for the National Oil Products Company in Kearney, N. J., until 1944. He then acted as a Consultant for the Fine Organics Laboratory of Lodi, N. J., for approximately one year, and in 1945 became employed as a Consulting Chemist for the Charles W. Berg Laboratories, 1827 North Fifth Street, Philadelphia. BLACK, now residing at 530 West Berks Street in Philadelphia, continues to retain the above employment with the Berg Laboratories.

It is noted details of his activities and past residences appear in the Philadelphia report of SA WILLIAM B. WELTE, JR., dated 7/26/50.

BLACK, since the mid-1930's to 1950, participated in or was associated with various aspects of Soviet espionage activities within the United States. He was also a member of the Communist Party in the mid-1930's, and, at the behest of his Soviet superior, conducted espionage into Trotskyite activities within the SWP in the late 1930's. This

HAS:JMB
REGISTERED MAIL

RECORDED - 25
INDEXED - 25

65-59181-361

G-21
24 JUN 8 1954

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DECLASSIFIED BY 4913
ON 2/9/78

EXP. PROC.

PH 134-New
Director, FBI

6/7/54

activity was centered principally in the vicinity of Newark, N. J., and the immediate surrounding northern New Jersey cities. He has provided this office with details of his past activities and has readily provided information that has led to the identity of his various Soviet superiors and American contacts. As pointed out in the referenced letter, BLACK made positive identification on 1/20/54 of NIKOLAI NIKOLAEVICH ERCHOV as being his temporary Soviet superior during the period 1939-1940. BLACK has maintained a friendly, cooperative attitude toward the Bureau.

Credit records of the Philadelphia Credit Bureau, Inc., Philadelphia, and the files of the Philadelphia Police Department Record Room - Detective Division and the Intelligence Squad fail to reflect any record of THOMAS LESSING BLACK.

The following description is set forth as obtained from personal observation of interviewing agents and as provided by BLACK:

Name	THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was. Tasso Lessing Black, Thomas L. Black, Tom Black, Dr. Thomas L. Black, George Williams, Tom Jones, Harold L. Jones, Tom Wright, Lessie Black, Bob, "Doc"
Sex	Male
Race	White
Age	43, in 1950
Born	July 5, 1907, Bloomsburg, Pa.
Residence	530 West Barks Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
Height	5'8½"
Weight	200 pounds
Build	Heavy
Hair	Light brown, wavy
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Light, ruddy
Scars and marks	Burn scars on entire left arm and shoulder, front of neck, and left ear
Peculiarities	High square forehead, glasses, flat feet, uses long, black cigarette holder, incessant smoker of cigarettes, smokes Camels

PH 134-New
Director, FBI

6/7/54

Occupation
Marital status
Immediate relatives

Chemist
Single
Stepmother, Mrs. A. BRUCE ~~BLACK~~
(LOIS), nurse, Grant Hospital,
Columbus, Ohio

Nationality
Country of birth
Fingerprint
classification
Handwriting specimen
Social Security Number
Past residences

American
United States

Identification Division, FBI

At Bureau

136-09-0915

Birth until June 1929, at

265 East Street, Bloomsburg, Pa.;

1928 to 1937: 577 Madison Avenue,

Elizabeth, N. J.; Apartment 210,

112 Westfield Avenue, Elizabeth,

N. J.; 116 Anna Street, Apartment

2H, Elizabeth, N. J.; 654 Bergen

Avenue, Jersey City, N. J.; 57

Sip Avenue, Apartment 82, Jersey

City, N. J.; The Mayflower Apart-

ments, Apartment D-17, 65 Tonnell

Avenue, Jersey City, N. J.;

55 Oxford Street, Apartment 2-F,

Unit 1, Newark, N. J.; 17 Oxford

Street, Unit 4, Newark, N. J.;

Majestic Hotel, Philadelphia part

time; 1945 and 1946, apartment of

SARAH ANN MELLOR, 1749 North

Mascher Street, Philadelphia;

June 1946 to October 1946, 43

West Gravers Lane, Philadelphia,

home of Miss S. V. HENKELS;

2124 Spruce Street, Philadelphia,

apartment of SARAH HERSCHER, until

1948; 1908 Dallas Street, Philadelphia,

home of Mr. LOUIS COOPER, September

1948 to Spring 1950; Spring of 1950,

1929 North 6th Street, Philadelphia.

Employment

American Cyanamid Company, 1929

to 1930;

Holbrook Manufacturing Company,

1930 to 1933;

National Oil Products Company,

1933 to 1944;

PH 134-New
Director, FBI

6/7/54

Employment (continued)

Fine Organics, Inc., 1944-1945
as Consultant;
Spruce Chemical Company,
177 Railway Avenue, Paterson,
N. J., 1946 - as Consultant;
Charles W. Berg Laboratories,
1827 North 5th Street,
Philadelphia, Pa., 1945 - as
Consultant.

Education

Bloomsburg, Pa., High School,
1921-1925;
Pennsylvania State College,
1925-1929 (did not graduate).

In view of the above, he is being considered a Confidential
Source of the Philadelphia Division relative to Espionage - R matters.

SAC, Philadelphia (134-New)

June 17, 1954
I.R. 8

EX-125

RECORDED

Director, FBI (65-59181)

65-59181-361
THOMAS LESSING BLACK
CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE

Reurlet dated June 7, 1954.

The Bureau has no objection to additional
contacts with captioned individual as a confidential
source.

[REDACTED]

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In the future, you should submit requests
of this type in strict accordance with Section 107TS
of the Manual of Instructions.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Not on SI.

GFM:pjm JUN 18 2 10 PM '54

RECEIVED
FBI
JUN 18 1954

- Tolson
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Harbo
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Mohr
- Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Miss Gandy

JUN 18 1954

MAILED 11
JUN 18 1954
COMM-FBI

RECEIVED
JUN 18 1954
at 11:30
2

RECORD SECTION

1-21

1954

TO:

☐ Mr. Waikart
☐ Mr. Eames
☐ Mr. Medler
☐ Mr. Rumlaldu
☐ Mr. Seyfarth
☐ Mrs. Welch
☐ Mrs. Collins
☐ Mr. Short
☐ Mr. O'Connell
☐ Mr. Linton

☐ Checkers
☐ Classifying
☐ Consolidation
☐ Exp. Processing
☐ File Review
☒ Filing Unit
☐ G.I. Unit
☐ Numbering Unit
☐ Personnel Unit
☐ Stop Desk
☐ Recording
☐ Service Unit
☐ Ser. Research Desk

☐ Mr. Baumgardner(1244)
☐ Mr. Branigan(1527)
☐ Mr. Brooking(4651)
☐ Miss Campsey(5261)
☐ Cent. Research Desk(7630A)
☐ Chief Clerk(5517)
☐ Mr. Conroy(6130IB)
☐ Mr. Deiss(6306IB)
☐ Mr. Ferris(7143)
☐ Mr. Holroyd(4637)
☐ Mr. Innes(4742)
☐ Mr. Jones(4236)
☐ Lab. Files(7621)
☐ Liaison Section(7649)
☐ Mail Room(5533)
☐ Mr. Renneberger(B-114)
☐ Mr. Rosen(5706)
☐ Mr. Stanley(2252)
☐ Miss Willbourne(4134IB)
☐ Mr. Trotter(4131IB)
☐ Mr. Wherry(5537)
☐ Stat. Section(6219IB)
☐ Ident Division

EXPEDITIOUS ATTN.

By Special Messenger

☐ Kill Stop
☐ Place Stop
☐ Change Stop

☐ Please Handle
☐ Note and Return
☐ See Me
☐ Call Me

☐ M
☐ Room

ROUTING UNIT

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: November 4, 1954

FROM : MR. C. E. HENRICH

cc-Baumgardner
Bibler
Branigan
Lamphere

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK
ESPIONAGE - R

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
EXPLOSION OF CHEMICAL STORAGE TANK
CHARLES W. BERG LABORATORY
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
October 28, 1954
SABOTAGE

Supervisor Norris Harzenstein called from Philadelphia on the afternoon of November 4, 1954. He advised that Thomas L. Black, who has been the subject of an espionage investigation, came to the Philadelphia Office this afternoon (11/4). Black was an associate of Harry Gold, and in that case we conducted extensive investigation and Black admitted contacts with the Soviets in connection with industrial espionage. Black denied obtaining any classified material for the Soviets, and the net result of the investigation was that the Department declined prosecution but required his registration under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as one who had received instructions in espionage.

Black is an employee of the Berg Company. He advised that during the intensive investigation being conducted by police agencies, he and other employees are being subjected to intensive inquiries and that he has been called upon to give testimony at a hearing, and did give such testimony on 11/4. Black states that the company officials are attempting to place the blame for the explosion, which, incidentally, resulted in the death of a number of people, on employees. Black stated that he desires to be placed in touch with Captain Driscoll, of the Philadelphia Police Department, who is handling the investigation, so that he can talk with Driscoll privately. It appears that Black's association with Soviet espionage in the past will come to life and that, anyway, he thinks his position would be better if he at this time discloses to Captain Driscoll his background. Harzenstein requested advice as to what action should be taken by the Philadelphia Office.

ACTION:

I told Harzenstein that Black should be informed that if he wants to contact the Philadelphia Police Department

CEH:LL

55 NOV 19 1954

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11-4-54 98-4277
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in connection with its investigation, that is a decision for him to make; that the Bureau will not advise him in this regard and that if Black decides to make such a contact, he should do it himself and not request the Bureau to make arrangements for a private interview.

I told Harzenstein that the question of Black's advising the Philadelphia Police Department of his background and involvement with the Soviets is, again, a matter for Black to decide and that the Bureau can offer him no advice in this regard.

Ja
11-5

gmv

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

G. I. R.

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 11-16-54

FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4332)

SUBJECT: THOMAS LESSING BLACK, was.,
ESPIONAGE - R

Re mytels 11-4-54 and 11-5-54 advising of BLACK's contact with the Philadelphia PD and District Attorney's office re telephonic instructions by Mr. CLEVELAND of the Bureau to this office November 8. For the Bureau's further information on 11-11-54 FRANK BROOKHOUSER, columnist for the Philadelphia Bulletin, carried as his lead paragraph the following:

"One of the most sensational stories turned up in the probe of that North Philadelphia chemical plant explosion which claimed the lives of ten firemen still hasn't come out. If it ever does, it will be a shocker. Involves one of the key men at the plant. Both the DA's office and the police have the facts."

On 11-16-54, Sergeant JOHN J. SCHUBERT of the Homicide Division, Philadelphia PD contacted this office in a routine manner to advise that BLACK had furnished the PD with a signed statement in which he admitted that he was a former Soviet espionage agent and further stated that subsequent to 1951 he had been cooperating with the FBI and was presently on call by the FBI. Further, that he was making the statement at the consent of the FBI. Sergeant SCHUBERT desired to know whether BLACK was cooperating with us or whether he had lied in an effort to protect himself. On 11-17-54, Sergeant SCHUBERT was furnished with the information specifically authorized in Mr. CLEVELAND's telephone call, namely, that BLACK had registered under the Foreign Agents' Registration Act, that his statement was withdrawn by the Attorney General in accordance with Section 6 of that Act, and that the statement was part of the confidential files of the Department of Justice. SCHUBERT was not advised of BLACK's past cooperation with the FBI. He said, however, that the information furnished was sufficient for his purposes.

NSH:emc

cc: 134-279 (Black)

98-2072 (Expl. Berg Lab.)

(2 Bu, 2 Ph)

65-59181

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NOV 18 1954

NOV 23 1954

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NOV 4 1954

TELETYPE

9-44 PM

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WASHINGTON 4 FROM PHILADELPHIA

DIRECTOR.....U R G E N T

THOMAS LESSING BLACK, WAS. ESP. DASH R. RE PH TELEPHONE CALL WITH
INSPECTOR CARL HENNRICH AND REMYTEL OCTOBER TWENTY-EIGHT NINETEEN
FIFTY-FOUR, CAPTIONED ~~QUOTE SEMICOLON~~ EXPLOSION OF CHEMICAL STORAGE
TANK, CHARLES W. BERG LABORATORIES, PH, PA., OCTOBER TWENTY-EIGHT
NINETEEN FIFTY-FOUR SABOTAGE. ~~UNQUOTE~~ BLACK APPEARED PH OFFICE
AFTERNOON NOVEMBER FOUR, NINETEEN FIFTY-FOUR, AND ADVISED HE TESTIFIED
THAT MORNING RE EXPLOSION AT BERG LABORATORIES. EXPLOSION HAS CLAIMED
LIVES OF TEN FIREMEN TO DATE, IS RECEIVING EXTENSIVE LOCAL PUBLICITY,
AND IS BEING INVESTIGATED BY NUMEROUS CITY DEPARTMENTS. BLACK STATED
FOLLOWING HIS TESTIMONY THIS MORNING, BERG LAB ATTORNEY, LOUIS
LIPSCHUTZ, REMARKED THAT PROBABLY ERIC BERG AND WALTER ALKUS, PARTNERS,
JESSIE COLEMAN, STATIONARY ENGINEER, AND BLACK WOULD BE ARRESTED FOR
NEGLIGENCE IN STORING CHEMICALS, AND THAT PRIOR TO ARRESTS A BACKGROUND
INVESTIGATION WOULD BE CONDUCTED RE EACH INDIVIDUAL. ERIC BERG
COGNIZANT OF BLACK-S PAST ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES. BLACK BELIEVES
LIPSCHUTZ WILL ATTEMPT TO PLACE BLAME ON COLEMAN AND BLACK TO PROVIDE
ESCAPE FOR BERG AND ALKUS, HE BELIEVES BERG HAS INFORMED LIPSCHUTZ OF
BLACK-S PAST ACTIVITIES AND IS FEARFUL LIPSCHUTZ MAY ATTEMPT TO USE
THIS INFO TO MAKE BLACK SCAPEGOAT OF EXPLOSION. BLACK EXPRESSED DESIRE
FOR THIS OFFICE TO ARRANGE PRIVATE INTERVIEW BETWEEN INSPECTOR JOHN
DRISCOLL, PH PD, AND BLACK, AND ASKED TO WHAT EXTENT HE SHOULD DIVULGE
TO DRISCOLL INFO RE PAST ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO PROTECT
OWN INTEREST RE EXPLOSION. BLACK WAS INFORMED THAT THIS OFFICE COULD NOT
END PAGE ONE

CORR LINE THREE WD XX SH READ "CAPTIONED QUOTE UNSUB SIMICOLON ETC.

Mr. Belmont

Memo Aag. Tompkins 11/10/54 H.H.W.

78-42377
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RECORDED - 32 65 - 59181 - 365

H. H. W.

PAGE TWO

ARRANGE INTERVIEW WITH DRISCOLL, AND THAT HE WAS FREE TO USE OWN JUDGEMENT IN MATTERS DISCUSSED WITH DRISCOLL IN EVENT HE PERSONALLY ARRANGED INTERVIEW. BLACK INDICATED HE WOULD SEEK INTERVIEW WITH DRISCOLL. BUREAU-S ATTENTION DIRECTED TO DEPARTMENTAL MEMO MAY TWENTY NINETEEN FIFTYTHREE, WHICH REVEALS BLACK--S REGISTRATION STATEMENT IS BEING WITHHELD FROM PUBLIC EXAMINATION PENDING DEVELOPMENTS. BLACK-S INVOLVEMENT IN CURRENT HEARINGS MAY LEAD TO PUBLICITY CONCERNING BLACK. AT THREE P.M. NOVEMBER FOUR NINETEEN FIFTYFOUR OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR INFO RECEIVED FROM DETECTIVE THOMAS BLONE, PH PD, RE BLACK. BLONE COMMENTED HE HAD HEARD BLACK WAS A COMMUNIST. BLONE DISCLOSED INVESTIGATION REVEALED BLACK DID NOT GRADUATE FROM PA. STATE COLLEGE AND HE IS PERSONALLY TRAVELLING TO STATE COLLEGE, PA., TODAY TO GET COPY OF SCHOOL RECORD. PERMISSION REQUESTED TO FURNISH P^N PD WITH INFO CONTAINED IN BLACK-S REGISTRATION STATEMENT AND FACT THAT BLACK HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE PAST FEW YEARS WITH PH OFFICE.

MC CABE

CORR LINE THIRTEEN WD SEVEN SH BE "PH"

END AND ACK PLS

WA PH R & WA MS

TU DISC

CC: MR. BELMONT
SND SUPERVISOR
DOM. INTEL DIVISION

Mr. Belmont

NOV 4 1954

RECEIVED

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

OCT 28 1954

Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Gandy

WA 1 FROM PH 28 11 12 AM
TELETYPE
DIRECTOR, FBI URGENT

UNSUB, EXPLOSION OF CHEMICAL STORAGE TANK, CHARLES W. BERG LABORATORIES, PHILA., PA., OCTOBER TWENTYEIGHT NINETEEN FIFTYFOUR, SABOTAGE. AT SIX ZERO SEVEN AM, OCT. TWENTYEIGHT FIFTYFOUR FIRE ALARM STRUCK AND FIREMEN ANSWERING ALARM RECEIVED COMPLAINTS IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF HEAVY ODORS EMANATING FROM REAR OF CAPTIONED FIRM-. PREMISES, ONE EIGHT TWO SEVEN NORTH FIFTY ST. FIREMEN IN PROCESS OF EXAMINING FOUR THOUSAND GALLON ALUMINUM CHEMICAL STORAGE TANK SITUATED OUTDOORS AT REAR OF BUILDING TO DETECT SOURCE OF VAPORS. PH FIRE MARSHAL ADVISED THIS TANK EXPLODED WHILE BEING EXAMINED RESULTING IN DEATH OF ONE DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF AND TWO BATTALION FIRE CHIEFS, INJURY TO TWENTY FIREMEN AND THREE POLICEMEN. NO FIRE PRESENT BEFORE OR AFTER EXPLOSION. NO COMPANY EMPLOYEES PRESENT AT TIME OF EXPLOSION. TANK TOTALLY DEMOLISHED AND WINDOWS BROKEN IN SURROUNDING STRUCTURES. ERIC BERG, PARTNER, BERG LABORATORIES, STATED FIRM HOLDS NO GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS. REPRESENTATIVE OF DOW CHEMICAL CO., PRODUCER OF STORED CHEMICAL, ADVISED VAPORS OF STORED CHEMICALS ARE HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE AND IGNITED BY SPARK OR FLAME. CHEMICALS STORED AT ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE, DIRECT FLAME NOT APPLIED TO TANK. HEATING OF CHEMICALS ACCOMPLISHED BY STEAM COIL WITHIN TANK NOT IN OPERATION AT TIME OF EXPLOSION. NO OPEN FLAME IS IN VICINITY OF STORAGE TANK. FIRE MARSHAL-S INVESTIGATORS STATE CAUSE OF EXPLOSION UNDETERMINED. THOMAS BLACK, BUFILE SIXTYFIVE DASH FOUR THREE THREE TWO, CURRENTLY EMPLOYED CAPTIONED COMPANY. NO INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED. NO REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED.

MC CABE

CORR LINE 16 WD 9 SHD BE "IF" RECEIVED

END ACK

165-59181-
NOT RECORDED
133 NOV 4 1954

orig. in Boardman

ORIGINAL FILED IN 98-8-146-844

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont
 FROM : W. A. Branigan

DATE: November 5, 1954

Tolson _____
 Boardman _____
 Nichols _____
 Belmont _____
 Harbo _____
 Moore _____
 Tamm _____
 Tracy _____
 Mohr _____
 Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Miss Gandy _____

SUBJECT: THOMAS L. BLACK (65-5918)
 ESPIONAGE - R

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
 EXPLOSION OF CHEMICAL STORAGE TANK
 CHARLES W. BERG LABORATORY
 PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
 OCTOBER 28, 1954
 SABOTAGE

The Philadelphia Police Department has advised they are presently investigating Black's Communist background and have requested information of the Philadelphia office.

By teletype dated 11-4-54, the Philadelphia office requests permission to furnish Philadelphia Police Department with information contained in Black's Registration Statement and fact that Black has been cooperative past few years with Philadelphia office.

On morning of 10-28-54, a chemical storage tank at Charles W. Berg Laboratories, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, exploded while being examined for source of escaping vapors. Explosion resulted in death of 1 Deputy Fire Chief and 2 Battalion Fire Chiefs, as well as injury to 20 firemen and 3 policemen. Thomas L. Black is presently employed Berg Laboratories. Arrests are imminent for negligence in storing chemicals. Black believes due to knowledge of his past activities by Eric Berg, partner Charles W. Berg Laboratory, attempt will be made to make Black scapegoat of explosion. Black is registered as a foreign agent. His registration statement has not been made public to date, although his identity as a Soviet agent has been reported to Congress.

Black was born July 5, 1907, at Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. He has admitted becoming involved with Soviets in 1934 when he and Ferdinand P. Heller went to Amtorg, New York

HHW:dmd

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City, to inquire about seeking employment in Russia. At Amtorg, Black and Heller met Gaik B. Ovakimian, Soviet espionage agent operating in United States in 1930's. Black has admitted contacting and sometimes furnishing information to Ovakimian and subsequent Soviet espionage superiors 1934 to 1947. The information consisted of industrial secrets of various companies by which Black employed. Information concerning penicillin and sorbitol (the source of Vitamin C) was passed. It was Black who first recruited Harry Gold introducing Gold to Gold's first Soviet espionage superior. All information developed concerning Black has been disseminated to the Department and the Criminal Division declined to prosecute Black.

Black on February 25, 1953, filed with the Foreign Agents Registration Section of the Department of Justice under Section 20 (a) a statement in which he furnished a resume of his espionage activities. The Criminal Division under date of April 10, 1953, asked the Bureau if this statement should be made public. By memo of April 27, 1953, we furnished the Criminal Division the facts concerning Black's cooperation with us but stated we did not desire to make a recommendation for or against the withdrawing from public examination of his registration statement. By memo of May 20, 1953, the Criminal Division stated the statement was being withheld from public examination.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the request of the Philadelphia Police Department for information on Black, it is recommended that we immediately contact the Internal Security Division of the Department pointing out the facts in this matter and determine if they desire the registration statement of Black made available to the Philadelphia Police Department which in effect will make the statement public.

If the Internal Security Division desires to do this and desires we make a copy available to the Philadelphia Police Department we will inform the Philadelphia office to make a copy available to the Police Department.

The Philadelphia office will be instructed not to make any statements as to Black's cooperation in the past with that office.

SERVICE UNIT
SEARCH SLIP

4-22a

Supervisor Tracy Room 738

Subj: Thomas Henry Black

Exact Spelling _____
All References _____
Subversive Ref. _____
Main File _____
Restricted to Locality of _____

Searchers
Initial _____
Date 7-1-53

FILE NUMBER SERIALS

100-59944 59, 14
100-364942 28
100-59958 12
100-355778 57, 10, 13
100-3499 640
100-390 1080, 1091, 105
100-376465 2
100-309700 16
100-60405 39
100-57703 7
100-79248 207
100-37884 43

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4-22a

Supervisor Tracy Room 1738

Subj: Thomas Henry Black

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Searchers
Initial _____
Date 7-1-53

FILE NUMBER SERIALS

100-6061 3
100-59968 35
100-60110 18, 9, 1
100-57910 30
100-59899 7, 15
100-13785 7, 10, 29
100-390 1097
100-58002 102
100-6049 53
100-60480 26
100-47638 80
100-345746 118

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4-22a

Supervisor Tracy Room 1738

Subj: 42 Black

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64-8698-136
65-59345-1
65-57859-120
65-58520-1499
65-57807-13, 80
65-57080-5 I
65-57897-73
65-599500-2
65-592573-58, 60
65-59334-60
65-5779-20

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Supervisor Tracy Room 1738

Subj: Black, 47

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65-57807-13, 80
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65-599500-2
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Supervisor Indy Room 1738

Subj: Y. L. Black

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FILE NUMBER SERIALS

NR 1820-8460
31 49511-1
NR 19159-691
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I 100-375 196-101
I 100-374225-3
NR 62-96921-1
NR 7-18726-368
NR 61-7507-10595
I 100-4787-53
62-72781-15
NR 4189
NR 2116
NR 211

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I 100-57780-256
I 100-60480-195
I 100-55390-185
44-274080-7
NR 26-194983-8
I 65-61149-9
I 100-352385-1063
I 65-57592-43
I 66-07-1266
I 100-88909-220
I 100-19629-14
NR 21-180-800

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Supervisor Leib Room 1738

Subj: L. L. Black

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FILE NUMBER SERIALS

NR 21-4 441767
VR 3099-93 16
VR 326-93 48123-8
VR 817- 94
VR 818 561
VR 1175 1
VR 3622 NR NR
VR 5-8554- 3
VR 5-12170- 1
VR 6-2362- 1058
VR 1606- 608 7.1
VR 2264 47

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Supervisor Leib Room 1738

Subj: L. L. Black

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VR 353390 10185
VR 2366 389
VR 3552 10
NR 26-89605- 6; 4
NR 31-44733 96
NR 10509- NR NR
NR 6-2542 NR
VR 378687 179
VR 2698 44
NR 2-21531- 8803
NR 8-2167- 1

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Supervisor Link Room 1738

Subj: L. L. Black

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~~65-9180-52~~ ~~X 00~~
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~~NR 65-26301-~~ ~~132~~
~~NR 65-1919-~~ ~~641; 648~~
~~NR 65-16489-~~ ~~1~~
~~NR 62-60411-~~ ~~9~~
~~NR 65-8706-~~ ~~22~~
~~65-34726-~~ ~~15~~
~~NR 65-370679-~~ ~~1~~
~~NR 54-580-~~ ~~49~~
~~65-34726-~~ ~~27~~
~~NR 65-9888-~~ ~~6~~

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Subj: L. L. Black

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~~NR 62-7514-~~ ~~1~~
~~NR 66-2120-~~ ~~52~~
~~NR 62-21551-~~ ~~NR 12R~~
~~NR 47-9130-~~ ~~3~~
~~NR 65-8946-~~ ~~7018~~
~~65-365925-~~ ~~14~~
~~NR 65-1522-~~ ~~9~~
~~91-1919-~~ ~~648~~
~~NR 98-0-~~ ~~432~~

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SEARCH SLIP

4-22a

Supervisor Tracy

Room 1238

Subj: Y. L. Black

Exact Spelling

Searchers

All References

Initial

Subversive Ref.

Date

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FILE NUMBER

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~~15-56588-11~~
~~15-9780-52~~ NR NR
~~83-855-3~~
~~7-1820-28011~~
~~56-639-424~~
~~88-97-55, 56~~ NR NR
~~87-99511-Xj1~~
~~100-585144-2~~
~~5-5297-10~~

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4-22a

Supervisor Tracy

Room 1238

Subj: Y. L. Black

Exact Spelling

Searchers

All References

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Subversive Ref.

Date

Main File

Restricted to Locality of

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FILE NUMBER

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~~NR 65-1108~~
~~NR 98-2366~~ NR NR
~~NR 62-1199-262~~
~~NR 60-9803-73~~
~~65-39726-16~~
~~NR 107-26800-2~~
~~65-59518-20~~ 21, 22, 35, 36, 38, 40, 43, 44
~~755~~
~~NR 65-39726~~ NR NR NR NR
~~NR 65-0~~ 2, 16, 15, 107
~~100-86590-59-8~~

Initialed

SERVICE UNIT
SEARCH SLIP

4-22a

Supervisor Leahy Room 1738

Subj: Black, James

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☒ All References
☒ Subversive Ref.
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Initial Pap
Date 7/1/52

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~~65-59256-3~~
~~65-59234-50~~
~~65-12737-18~~
~~65-57449-614~~
~~65-59234-1~~
~~65-59256-22~~
~~65-59234-9~~
Black, J. L.
~~65-59256-328~~
~~65-59234-87~~
~~65-59480-5~~
~~65-59234-50~~

Initialed

SERVICE UNIT
SEARCH SLIP

4-22a

Supervisor Leahy Room 1738

Subj: Black, James Leahy

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☒ All References
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Initial Pap
Date 7/1/52

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~~65-59191-82~~
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~~65-58068-397~~ End
P. 10;
~~100-342424-406~~
~~65-59592-43~~
~~66-04-1366~~
~~100-88424-220~~
~~65-58236-1171~~
~~100-244909-141~~
~~100-365040-204~~

Initialed

SERVICE UNIT
SEARCH SLIP

4-22a

Supervisor 1727 Room 1738

Subj: Black, Tasso Leasing

☒ Exact Spelling
☐ All References
☐ Subversive Ref.
☐ Main File

Searchers
Initial Pap
Date 7/1

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Albany

FILE NUMBER

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65-57913-304, Encl
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100-342424-7,
65-59256-25,
65-59234-50, 85, 87,
65-59340-8
65-59256-3
65-57449-375
Black, Leasing
65-59340-8

Initialed

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SEARCH SLIP

4-22a

Supervisor 1727 Room 1738

Subj: Black, Thomas L

☒ Exact Spelling
☐ All References
☐ Subversive Ref.
☒ Main File

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Date 7/1/53

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Albany

FILE NUMBER

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not listed
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approx 175 all
not listed
Black, Tasso Leasing
65-59256-2
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40, 154, 155
65-57449-614
65-59256-4

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